



# Jordan Times

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جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

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## King: Jordan-Israel ties in most difficult period

*HM says Israeli humiliation of Palestinians could trigger violent reaction, Jordan does not believe in cutting relations but in dialogue to resolve problems*

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that Israeli-Jordanian relations "are in their most difficult period" since the two countries signed a peace treaty in October 1994.

King Hussein also warned of violent reactions from Palestinians if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went ahead with plans for a Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem.

"I think if it happens there is a very strong chance of violence," the King said in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN).

"I feel very strongly that things are not moving in the right direction and that an individual or a small group should not be allowed to threaten the whole peace process in this region. I feel very strongly that things are not moving fast enough and we are sliding towards the possibility of despair and extremism," he said.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had been reduced to a state of "complete despair" by the lack of progress in his talks with Israel, the King said.

"There is an air of crisis," he added.

He also warned Mr. Netanyahu against high-handed treatment of Palestinians, saying: "You cannot humiliate a people and continue to do it without having any reaction."

Jerusalem's fate, King Hussein said, "is a matter of (final) status negotiations."

"We are very very clear in our minds that there should be no change whatsoever in the status quo until such a time as the people discuss it," he said.

"These constant changes are causing a great deal of suspicion and anger and anguish... and I think that if it happens there's a very strong chance of violence," he said.

Under Israeli-Palestinian agreements, the fate of Jerusalem will be decided in the final status negotiations. In the meantime, the city's status was to remain unchanged, but Israel claims this refers to its legal status and not to construction.

Mr. Netanyahu has approved construction of a Jewish settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab East Jerusalem after brushing aside Jordanian, Palestinian and international rejection

of the move as a violation of Israel's interim agreement with the Palestinians.

The Israeli prime minister also infuriated the Palestinians by ordering the closure of four Palestinian offices in Arab East Jerusalem and by limiting the scope of a scheduled Israeli redeployment in the West Bank to nine per cent as opposed to Palestinian expectations of 30 per cent.

The King told CNN that the Middle East peace process was in danger unless Israel reconsidered its latest actions.

King Hussein stressed that if Israelis do not recognize a shared interest in Jerusalem, "I say enough for damage, enough for disaster, bloodshed and sorrow for all of us."

In another interview with Egypt's Al Musawwar weekly, the King said Jordan's stand towards Jerusalem was based on international legitimacy.

"As for Jerusalem, our stand is clear and is based on international laws and the inadmissibility of effecting any changes in Jerusalem before the final

Israel is weakening prospects of people contributing to build peace, Regent notes

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday warned that the Israeli government's current policies pose a threat to the Middle East peace process and the region's stability and weakens any prospect for the people of this region to contribute to making peace.

Speaking to Jordan Television after seeing off His Majesty King Hussein, who left for Spain and U.S., Prince Hassan said: "Peace should be comprehensive and based on justice and capable of fulfilling the aspirations of the ordinary citizens and catering to their needs and respecting the dignity of man."

Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's total rejection of Israeli settlements on the



His Majesty King Hussein is received by Spain's King Juan Carlos upon his arrival in Spain on Wednesday (Reuters photo)

## King and Queen arrive in Spain en route to U.S.

*Talks with Spanish and U.S. leaders to focus on means to resolve crisis facing peace process*

MADRID (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Wednesday for a two-day official visit that will essentially focus on the Middle East peace process and bilateral ties.

The King and Queen were greeted upon their arrival by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

On Thursday the King is to meet Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar before heading for the United States for talks with President Bill Clinton.

The King is accompanied by Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, His Royal Highness Prince Ali and Lieutenant General Hamdi Al Fayed, the King's advisor on tribal affairs.

The King will travel to the United States Friday and meet Mr. Clinton Tuesday.

King Hussein's visit to

Washington comes amid a crisis in Jordanian-Israeli relations sparked by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to build a Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem and withdraw troops from only nine per cent of the West Bank.

King Hussein was seen off by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan as well as other members of the Royal family in addition to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, speakers of Parliament and other senior officials and the U.S. and Spanish ambassadors to Jordan.

Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent.

Before leaving Amman, King Hussein had a telephone conversation with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and exchanged with him views about the

recent developments in the region.

King Hussein briefed Mr. Arafat on his talks with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in Amman Tuesday. Mr. Arafat briefed the King on his own call for a meeting to be held in Gaza Saturday by representatives of countries that signed the Oslo accord.

King Hussein said Jordan will participate in the meeting in a show of support for Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and of the Kingdom's continued backing for the peace process.

Prime Minister Kabariti said meanwhile Jordan will pursue and intensify efforts to dissuade the Israeli government from pursuing its present policies that threaten the peace process.

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## 'King represents Arab conscience and his frank words needed to bring out real facts'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein was prompted to send a strong letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu because he wanted to bring out the real facts of the crisis facing the peace process, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Wednesday.

Talking to Jordan Television after seeing off the King, who left for Spain and the United States (see separate story), the Regent said the King "represents the general conscience of the Arab World and his frank words are necessary to bring out the facts."

"It is painful for the King to feel that he is forced to act in such a way to express his views about the dangers posed to the peace process as a result of the policies of the Israeli government," the Regent said.

Prince Hassan said it was important to address the Israeli public and all peace-loving groups which had voted for the peace treaties and accords and which should be involved in salvaging the peace process.

ment in the West Bank, were "in total disregard of the Jordanian role and of Israel's commitments to the Kingdom."

Mr. Kabariti, in comments to the Jordan Times, referred to the King's letter to Mr. Netanyahu and said: "We are committed to the Israeli public and not to Netanyahu's ideologies and policies."

Mr. Kabariti described the King's letter and Mr. Netanyahu's reply as "emotional in nature," and said: "This is a clear indication of the depth of the crisis at hand and in view of the linkage between the Jerusalem question and settlements and Israel's failure to honour its commitments."

"Netanyahu is acting more under popular pressure than being compelled to honour the signed agreements and is trying to escape from his commitments, something which he cannot do," said Mr. Kabariti.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher, in an interview with a U.S.-based magazine, said the King's message to Mr. Netanyahu reflected Jordan's anger over the policies of the Israeli prime minister. It was also made clear to Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who visited Amman on Tuesday for talks with King Hussein and Mr. Kabariti.

## Netanyahu justifies actions in reply to King's message

Israeli PM, having read Monarch's letter with 'deep concern,' says difficulties with peace process did not start with his election. He suggests setbacks to Israeli-Palestinian track should not affect Jordan-Israel understanding

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sought to justify his decision to build a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, to order the closure of four Palestinian offices in the city and to limit Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank.

In a March 10 letter he sent to His Majesty King Hussein in reply to strongly worded message from the King one day earlier, Mr. Netanyahu argued that the basic Oslo agreement between Israel and the Palestinians were flawed and did not have Israeli consensus and that he had inherited the difficulties of the peace process.

The prime minister also suggested that Jordanian-Israeli relations should not be marred by setbacks suffered in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Following is the full text of Mr. Netanyahu's letter, which was carried by international news agencies on Wednesday, one day after the Royal Court released the King's message to the Israeli prime minister.

Your Majesty,  
I read your letter with

deep concern. The last thing I want is to cause you anguish and disappointment.

But your thorough knowledge of recent events must surely make you aware that the difficulties we face in the peace process did not begin with my government. Had there been a successful and vibrant peace process in May 1996, I would not have been elected by the Israeli public. I was chosen to lead Israel because of the bitter dissatisfaction of the Israeli people with the way the peace process was progressing.

I inherited a process that was failing. The country was suffering its worst terrorist wave in its history, with bus-bombs going off in the heart of Israeli cities and a devastating mini-war taking a heavy toll in Lebanon. By election time, the peace process was in its death throes.

But rather than let the Oslo process die after the elections, I sought to revive it. I have taken decisions that even my predecessors were extremely reluctant to attempt: the redeployment in Hebron, the release of female terrorists who had killed

Israelis, the easing of the closure, and a transfer of VAT funds to the Palestinian Authority (despite PA debts to Israel).

The release of the prisoners, in particular, was for me an excruciating decision. In recent decades, our finest soldiers had given their lives to prevent the release of convicted terrorists, even when Israeli hostages were taken.

Nor was the further redeployment (FRD) that we undertook at the end of last week insignificant. I know there are those around Chairman Arafat who built up his expectations about its dimensions.

But the fact is that the Oslo II interim agreement says nothing about the size of the FRD: it leaves this decision wholly to Israel's discretion. This may not be what Mr. Arafat wants, but it is the reality of the agreement that he signed.

My predecessors Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres only turned over 2.8 per cent of the West Bank to Area A status — to complete Palestinian control. After our FRD, 10.1 per cent of the West Bank will have this status.

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## Arafat urges 'peace of brave' ahead of crisis talks in Gaza

*U.S. rebukes Israel for attempting to foil Palestinian diplomatic initiative*

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat appealed to Israel to work for "the peace of the brave" on Wednesday even as he prepared an international conference in Gaza which Israel says could freeze the peace process.

The United States, meanwhile, rejected Israeli pressure not to attend the conference, called by Mr. Arafat to air his protests over a series of Israeli decisions on Arab East Jerusalem and troop withdrawals in the West Bank.

"We will continue, in spite of all that we are facing, this noble target of the peace of the brave," Mr. Arafat said at a meeting with more than 100 Israeli business people to improve trade ties.

"We have to coordinate together, the two peoples, the two establishments," the Palestinian leader added. "Let us do our best to obtain the peace and I'm sure we

will do it."

The comments came as the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, confirmed the U.S. would attend the Gaza conference, which will focus on Palestinian opposition to Israeli plans for a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem.

The gathering will also deal with the Israeli decision to withdraw its forces from a further 9 per cent of the West Bank.

"Israel's right to build in East Jerusalem is not up for discussion," Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy insisted after meeting Mr. Indyk in a bid to convince the U.S. not to send a representative to Gaza.

But he played down Israeli fears about the meeting — also to be attended by diplomats from Russia, Japan, the European Union, Jordan and Egypt — saying it was only "a briefing on Arafat's concerns about the peace process."

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu charged that Mr. Arafat was using the diplomatic arena to set the stage for resorting to violence later.

"He is creating conditions which are favourable to an increase in tensions and lay the groundwork for a 'spontaneous' "

(Continued on page 7)

Its The Final Count Down  
for the  
Grand Opening  
of  
**Y??T??A?S**  
Theme Restaurant & Bar

## U.S. in dilemma over how to play 'honest broker' in peace process

WASHINGTON (R) — Visits to Washington by key Middle Eastern leaders have only deepened the U.S. dilemma over how to play "honest broker" as the mood in the region slides back towards confrontation.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak have all argued their cases before U.S. President Bill Clinton in recent weeks. King Hussein is due next week.

But at least judging from public statements, the trips have served mainly to underline the increasing mistrust between the Arabs and Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing Likud government, with Washington caught unhappily in the middle.

Arabs and Israelis have used the Washington stage to denounce each other — Mr. Netanyahu lamenting that Arab children are still taught hostility to Israel and Mr. Arafat charging that Israel has abandoned the "land-for-peace" basis for talks.

The U.S. plan was to play host to the leading Middle East players in order to take stock of the situation after January's Israeli-Palestinian agreement on withdrawing Israeli troops from Hebron, a deal that seemed to have put the peace process back on track.

This has spared new Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who took office on Jan. 21, from having to plunge immediately into a trip to the region. Ms. Albright is aware that her predecessor, Warren Christopher, was perceived as making too many Middle East trips for too little result.

What the United States would like to do is let the Israelis and Palestinians negotiate their own problems in talks on the final status of the Palestinian self-rule territories that have been scheduled for March 17.

But the rapid downhill slide of events in the region has probably made American hopes of a stand-back role illusory.

Mr. Netanyahu's recent decisions to approve a Jewish settlement project in Arab East Jerusalem, close down Palestinian offices there and limit an Israeli troop pullback on

the West Bank have enraged the Palestinians and put peace talks in question.

Mr. Arafat, seeing the outside world in general and the United States in particular as his only recourse, Tuesday invited U.S., European and Arab envoys to a meeting Saturday to discuss the crisis.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy responded by warning that any attempt to bring about international involvement could lead to "a freeze in the political process."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa served notice in a Washington speech last week that the Clinton administration could not avoid playing an "active role" in peace efforts.

"The role of the United States as an honest broker should be preserved, because the role of the U.S. ... is very much a must," he said.

The United States has made no secret of its exasperation with Israel over the Jerusalem moves, which Mr. Clinton has twice publicly criticised as ill-timed decisions certain to breed mistrust with the Arabs.

An apparently innocuous U.S. decision to set up a joint commission with the Palestinians to focus on aid issues also caused a backstage diplomatic row with Israel, which saw it as boosting the status of the Palestinian National Authority.

But, as is often the fate of mediators, the United States has ended up pleasing nobody.

Mr. Clinton's decision on Friday to veto a U.N. resolution condemning Israel's settlement project as illegal annoyed the Arabs and brought the United States into conflict with its friend Egypt, a fellow Security Council member.

Most analysts believe the United States will seek to calm tempers, hope that the crisis will blow itself out sooner or later and prod the parties into beginning the much-delayed "final status" negotiations.

Some officials, however, believe it is only a matter of time before Ms. Albright is forced to retrace Mr. Christopher's steps and visit the region to try to revive the peace process.



CIVIL DEFENCE DRILL: A young Israeli schoolgirl (right) adjusts her gas mask as she and her classmates sit in their school's bomb shelter during a civil defence drill on Wednesday. Hundreds of thousands of school children all over the country were sent to the bomb shelters during an awareness exercise (Reuters photo)

## Pilot in Dubai take-off had 'heart attack'

DUBAI (AFP) — The British pilot of a Gulf Air Airbus A-320 which skidded off a runway at Abu Dhabi airport, leaving 86 passengers injured, had a heart attack during takeoff, an aviation source said Wednesday.

The source, who declined to be identified, told AFP that the co-pilot of the plane was forced to grab the controls after the pilot, Simon Frank, suffered a heart attack and tried to abort the takeoff.

Abdullah Abdul Karim, the Bahrain-based public relations director for Gulf Air, denied the report.

"Captain Simon Frank was in good health," Mr. Karim said in a statement. "The diagnosis of doctors at Al Mafraq Hospital who examined him does not indicate that he was the victim of a heart attack."

Mr. Frank has been hospitalised in Abu Dhabi with "injuries to the back and head," according to the Abu Dhabi Civil Aviation Department. According to the local press he is still in intensive care.

The nose cone and left wing of the plane were seriously damaged in the accident, which left 86 passengers injured, most of them only slightly.

Abu Dhabi civil aviation authorities have said a burst tyre may have been the cause of the accident.

The plane was flying 109 passengers to Cairo via Bahrain.

## Somali factions to hold talks in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — Somali faction chiefs will meet next week in Cairo for talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid on the crisis in Somalia.

An Egyptian official said, "in response to an invitation made at the end of January by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Ali Mahdi Mohammad arrived in Cairo Sunday while several leaders of other factions are expected here Friday."

Mr. Mohammad is one of the main Somali warlords.

The "five members of the Somali presidential council must consider ways of providing positive aid in the framework of the process of normalisation in Somalia, especially

in Mogadishu, like Foreign Minister Amr Musa said at the end of January," the official said.

The Somali leaders are also to discuss the crisis in their country with Mr. Abdul Meguid, as Somalia is one of the Arab League's 22 members.

On Feb 17, league spokesman Talsat Hamed said the organisation was considering launching "an Arab initiative" at its March 30 meeting of Arab foreign ministers on Somalia in coordination with Egypt.

"This initiative consists of a national reconciliation conference to include all the Somali parties, such as Hussein Aided, under the auspices of the Arab League, so as to preserve Somalia's National Unity," the principal Somali warlords, Mr. Ali Mahdi

and Mr. Aided, agreed in mid-January on the reunification of the capital, Mogadishu, with Mr. Aided controlling the south and Mr. Ali Mahdi the north.

At the beginning of January, 26 Somali factions created a national security council and a presidential council in preparation for forming a transition government. Mr. Aided's faction did not participate in those talks.

Mr. Abdul Meguid's assistant, Ahmad Ben Helli, told reporters Tuesday that Mr. Aided may be in Cairo next week for the talks.

Somalia, torn by civil war since the fall of its leader, Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991, has been without a government since that time.

## Egypt to legalise organ transplants

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian government is preparing to submit a law for parliament's approval to legalise organ transplants, previously thought to have been prohibited under Islam, Al Ahran government daily said Wednesday.

But the mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Nasr Farid Wasseel, was quoted by the daily as saying that the Islamic research centre of Al Azhar, the top Sunni Muslim authority, has "agreed in principle" on the transplant of organs.

He stressed that the

experts have also agreed on a series of "legal restrictions" for any operation involving the transfer of organs from a dead person to a living one and between living people. Al Ahran said.

The newspaper also reported that Mansura University had prepared a law on organ transplants, at the government's request, to be submitted soon to the People's Assembly for approval.

The law has four clauses which underscore that the operation should only be

conducted when someone's life is threatened.

State Prosecutor Raja'a Al Arabi was quoted by Al Ahran as saying, in a message to the parliamentary health commission, that "the dignity of the human body does not prevent the removal of one of its parts."

The head of Al Azhar, Sheikh Mohammad Seyyed Tantawi, had condoned organ transplants as a last-ditch measure on several occasions when he served as mufti of Egypt before Sheikh Wasseel.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lebanese university teachers on two-day strike

BEIRUT (R) — Some 1,600 lecturers at state-run Lebanese University began a two-day strike on Wednesday to pressure the government to meet their long-standing demands. The demands include the appointment of deans of faculties, full tenure for contract staff, a new pay scale, a cost of living pay rise and other pay benefits, head of the executive committee of the university teachers said. "All we want is our rights. The university is currently paralysed without deans," Issam Khalife told Reuters. It was the third time that Lebanese university teachers went on strike since the beginning of the year. The university has 45,000 students.

### 4 killed in Yemen grenade explosion

SANAA (R) — Four people were killed on Tuesday night in the Yemeni capital Sanaa when a member of a charity society hurled a hand grenade into the organisation's headquarters, the official SABA news agency said. The assailant was among those killed and four others were injured in the attack which was triggered by a personal dispute, the agency said without elaborating. Witnesses told Reuters 11 people were injured.

### 56 Kurds found in Italian truck

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AP) — Fifty-six Kurds were discovered Tuesday hiding in an Italian-registered truck at the Schoenberg customs station on the Italian-Austrian border, police reported. Police arrested the 47-year-old Croatian truck driver, whose name was not released. The Kurds were expected to be deported to Turkey. Police said the 55 men and one woman were Turkish citizens, who spent 36 hours hidden in the truck behind plastic packaging and boxes. Red Cross aides fed and sheltered the Kurds. The smuggling route took them from Turkey to Sarajevo, then on to Italy. Customs officials said their destination likely was Germany. Tuesday's discovery was one in a series of clandestine groups seeking to enter Germany that were intercepted either in Austria or at the German border. Fifty-two Kurds found hidden on a Turkish-registered truck recently asked for asylum in Austria.

### Saudia leases Boeings to carry pilgrims

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabian Airlines Corporation (Saudia) said on Tuesday it had leased nine Boeing 747 airplanes to help with its Hajj pilgrimage operations next month, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. It quoted the airline's director-general, Khaled Ben Bakr, as saying the Jumbo Jets would assist in the operation that will ensure the transportation some 204,000 pilgrims on 566 charter flights as well as 63,000 pilgrims on scheduled flights. About two million Muslims — half of them from abroad — are expected to perform the annual Hajj in the kingdom.

### Algerian woman named editor of the year

NEW YORK (AFP) — An international news magazine has named a 39-year-old Algerian newspaper editor "International Editor of the Year" citing "her work and her courage," the magazine said in a statement Tuesday. The World Press Review (WPR) awarded its 1996 prize to Salima Ghezali, editor-in-chief of Algeria's weekly paper *La Nation*, calling the publication "the most credible source" on events in troubled Algeria. Ms. Ghezali "has been outspokenly critical of human-rights violations by all sides in the war" between the military-backed regime and Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria, the statement added. The New York-based WPR is "a monthly digest of news and commentary from around the world," according to the statement.

### Saudi man beheaded for murder

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia on Wednesday beheaded a Saudi man for fatally shooting another national after an argument inside the murderer's car, Saudi television said. An Interior Ministry statement carried by the state-run television said the victim was killed by one bullet. The beheading in the Saudi city of Taif near Mecca was the fifth execution in the kingdom this year. Saudi Arabia executed 68 people in 1996.

### 4 Iranians hanged for rape, murder

TEHRAN (AFP) — Four Iranian men convicted of rape and murder were hanged on Wednesday in a Tehran prison, the newspaper Keyhan reported. One of those executed, Ali Karimi, was convicted of kidnapping and raping five young women, the newspaper said. Another, Reza Akhlaghi, 20, was hanged for stabbing to death another youth, it said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 Flintstones & Ovide & The Gang  
14:30 .....Raw Tonnage  
14:45 .....Curiosity Show  
15:10 They Came From Outer Space  
16:00 .....N.B.A. Basketball  
17:00 .....Out of This World  
17:30 .....French Programmes  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Parenthood  
20:00 .....Cinema, Cinema  
20:30 The American Chart Show  
21:10 .....Kung Fu-The Legend  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:25 .....Feature Film: "Remember"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:28 .....Fajr  
05:45 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
11:45 .....Dhuhr  
15:08 .....Asr  
17:45 .....Maghreb  
19:02 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church

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Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Sunny to partly cloudy weather

conditions will prevail today and

temperatures around average. On

Friday, it will be cloudy with a

chance of scattered showers. Temperatures are expected to dip

and winds northwesterly moderate.

In Aqaba, it will be warm and

dusty, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Mini/Max. Temperatures

Amman .....05/16

Aqaba .....10/24

Deserts .....04/18

Jordan Valley .....10/24

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 16, Aqaba 25 Humidity

readings: Amman 36 per cent,

Aqaba 26 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Wisam Hazzayin .....748563

Dr. Mukhlis Mazraiah .....320425

Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyim 630115

Dr. Munther Al Qraini 779959

Firas pharmacy .....661912

Ferdows pharmacy .....778336

Al Asena pharmacy .....637055

Al Salam pharmacy .....636730

Yacoub pharmacy .....644945

Stunessani pharmacy .....637660

Nairoukh pharmacy .....623672

Najib pharmacy .....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu .....281484

Al Quds pharmacy .....636381

ZARQA:

Dr. Salah Safarani .....987565

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111.

637777

Fire Brigade .....617101

Blood Bank .....775121

Highway Police .....843402

Traffic Police .....896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints .....605800

Price Complaints .....661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121

Overseas Calls .....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television .....773111

Radio Jordan .....774111

Water Authority .....680100

Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615

Electric Power Company .....636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussain Medical Centre .....81381332

Khalidi Maternity .....644281/6

Akileh Maternity .....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mafkas, J. Amman .....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital .....669131

University Hospital .....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital .....66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6

Italian, Al-Mohajreen .....777101/3

Al-Bashir, .....775111/26

Army, Marka .....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital .....602240/50

Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....09983323

Zarqa National Hospital .....09900560

Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....09990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital .....02755555

Greek Catholic Hospital .....02722275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital .....02727100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital .....03314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT:

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen

Alia International Airport Tel.

(08)53200 where it should

always be verified.

Information on other flights are

supplied on phone 08 (57700) or

08(53250).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:15 .....Sanaa (RJ)

08:15 .....Bombay (RJ)

09:15 .....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)

09:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)

10:05 .....Beirut (RJ)

10:05 .....Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

10:40 .....Colombo (RJ)

14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:25 .....London (RJ)

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## Queen praises ties between France and Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Season in France was launched Tuesday by Her Majesty Queen Noor and wife of the French President, Bernadette Chirac, who inaugurated the "Voyage en Jordanie" exhibition at the Hotel de Ville, a Royal Court statement said.

Queen Noor stated "in 1965, an agreement on cultural and economic cooperation was signed between our two countries and since that time our contacts have expanded to include individuals and institutions across a wide spectrum of society."

France has been Jordan's partner in development since 1977, providing an invaluable and much appreciated technological and economic assistance," she said. "Since the signing of the 1978 cultural cooperation agreement enabling Jordan Television to broadcast French programmes, Jordan has evolved into an important regional redistribution centre in the Arab World and has cooperated in training other television teams in the reception and airing of these programmes."

She commended French cooperation "in the archaeological field and the excavation and restoration of historic sites over the past several decades, which has contributed significantly to

the preservation of our national treasures and to the enhancement of some of the world's heritage sites," she said, according to the statement.

Madame Chirac responded "it brings me great happiness to finally realise this project which I have planned with Queen Noor for over three years" and thanked the Queen for her "personal involvement and constant attention."

"The Jordanian Season in France, which comes at a time when our bilateral relations could not be better, will contribute to reinforcing and strengthening the cooperation and friendship that exists between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and France," she concluded.

The "Voyage en Jordanie" exhibition, which will last 3 months from March 12 until June 15, features the works of 14 contemporary Jordanian artists and sculptors as well as 42 archaeological pieces from the Museums of Amman, Irbid and Jerash that span from the early Bronze Age (3300 B.C.) until the Mamluk period (12th century A.D.), according to the statement.

The exhibition will also include nine 6th-7th century mosaic friezes from churches in Jerash and Khirbet Al Samra as well as rare pages from the Koran, ancient engravings, water-

colour paintings, maps, plans and writings of voyagers from different periods who visited Jordan.

In addition, there will also be an exhibit of traditional Jordanian and Palestinian dresses and carpets from the collection of Widad Kassar and photographs of Petra dating from the mid-19th century until the present time, the statement said.

Later, the Queen attended a reception at the Hotel Meridien hosted by the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, in cooperation with the Forte Grand Le Meridien Hotels and Royal Jordanian Airlines.

Queen Noor and Mme. Chirac opened the Jordanian handicrafts exhibition at the department store Le Printemps.

The handicrafts exhibit, which was organised in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Jordan Design and Trade Centre, is located at the centre of Le Printemps' popular annual exhibition of carpets from the Middle East. The Jordanian display features handicrafts ranging from jewellery and Dead Sea products to hand-woven carpets, ceramics, glass and light furniture, the statement said.

Queen Noor described the handicrafts as "the product of income-generating projects initiated by non-profit

non-governmental organisations, which provide both training and job opportunities for craftsmen and women, making use of local resources and traditional techniques."

She added that these projects "have enabled a large number of women, particularly rural women to improve their social and economic status and the quality of life of their entire families; they have also contributed to the preservation and revival of our traditional national handicrafts, some of which have been innovatively adapted to international markets."

The Queen concluded by saying that France has become "our third most important European tourism market, we invite you to visit our country, the gateway to the Middle East and we look forward to welcoming many more friends from France in the years ahead."

Accompanying Queen Noor to the events were Senator Leila Sharaf, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Dr. Saleh Irsheidat and his wife Muna, Ambassador Sharif Fawaz Sharaf and his wife Nuha, Advisors to the Queen in Amman Mufti and Dr. Lina Toukan, French Ambassador Bernard Bisolet and CEO of Royal Jordanian Mr. Nader Dhababi and his wife Aida.

## Lower House condemns Israeli actions, Washington veto of U.N. resolution

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday issued a statement rejecting the Israeli government's modification of the Arab character of Jerusalem as well as its construction of increased Jewish settlements.

The statement was issued one day after Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti delivered a government statement regarding Jerusalem and Israeli settlement plans.

He condemned U.S. support for the Israeli actions which, he said, violate international laws and defy the global community.

"The Lower House of Parliament reaffirms the importance of Jerusalem for Muslims and Arabs and considers the city the cornerstone of the Palestinian question," the statement said. "It forms part of the Arab lands, occupied since 1967, and we call for the city's return to Palestinian sovereignty to serve as the capital of the Palestinian state."

"Any change in the city's demographic nature is a flagrant violation of international law, U.N. resolutions and human rights," it said. "The Lower House rejects

Israeli measures in Jerusalem, encroachments on Christian and Islamic holy sites and the drive to evict Arab citizens from the city."

"It considers these measures as null and void," the statement added.

"The House also condemns the U.S. administration for its continued support of Israeli decisions as well as its veto of a recent U.N. Security Council resolution which would have condemned Israeli defiance of the global community and considers the American administration to have abandoned its role as an honest broker in the Middle East peace process due to a total bias towards the arrogant Israeli government," it continued.

In appreciation of European countries' support of the Palestinian people's rights and their demand that Israel respect and implement U.N. resolutions, Europe should be an active partner in and sponsor of the peace process, the statement said.

Calling for an Arab summit meeting, the Lower House maintained "it is a national duty for Arab leaders to forego their petty dif-

ferences, regroup and meet at the summit level to rally Arab ranks and unite to protect Jerusalem and Arab rights there."

The statement called on leaders of Islamic countries to convene a special meeting to discuss the situation in Jerusalem and chart a clear policy to guarantee the rights of Arabs and Muslims in their lands and provide protection for the holy places.

The House further urged Arab parliaments and people to organise and call on the Jordanian government to revise the peace process and procure appropriate measures for restoring Arab rights.

Israel's present measures are not helping to achieve the comprehensive and just peace sought by Jordan but threaten Jordan's national security and, therefore, the statement said, the government should confront this situation with firm resolve.

The House called on Arab countries to link any normalisation of political or economic ties with Israel with the latter's compliance with previously agreed peace accords as well as U.N. resolutions.

The statement praised

Jordan's official stand regarding Jerusalem, as expressed by His Majesty King Hussein, who has continually backed the Palestinian struggle to regain rights and establish an independent state.

It also enjoined the Jordanian government to bolster its cooperation with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Syria and Lebanon to ensure a comprehensive peace.

The Lower House held a session earlier Wednesday, attended by the Council of Ministers, during which it debated and endorsed amendments to a draft law on the General Federation of Jordanian Farmers as referred by the Senate.

The draft will be referred to the government which will submit it to the King for ratification.

The House also referred a draft law on a military housing fund to the finance committee and endorsed a draft law on Al al Bait University.

Composed of 23 articles, the draft law stipulates that the Al al Bait University be Islamic in nature and that a national institution of higher education be located in the Mafrag governorate.

## Regent meets with Australian deputy prime minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, conferred at the Royal Court Wednesday with visiting Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade Tim Fischer and the two reviewed Jordanian-Australian economic ties.

They also exchanged views regarding the Middle East peace process.

Prince Hassan enumerated Jordanian economic and social development efforts, while Mr. Fischer stated that he would discuss prospects for expanding the volume of trade with the Kingdom as well as increasing tourism cooperation with his government.

Mr. Fischer arrived in Amman Tuesday evening and met with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to discuss political and economic relations and prospects for promoting bilateral trade.

Subsequent to the meeting, a statement said that Australian meat and wheat exchanged for Jordanian phosphate and potash as well as tourism cooperation between Australia and Jordan and the prospect of opening of a direct air route between Amman and Perth were among the topics dis-



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, meets with Australian Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer to discuss economic ties and other related issues (photo by Boghos)

cussed.

Mr. Fischer was briefed on Jordanian moves to liberalise trade with other countries as well as a package of new legislation to support that endeavour.

The Australian official met earlier with Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and reviewed bilateral economic relations as well as Jordanian sales of phosphate and fertiliser to Australia.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the two sides agreed to create a joint ministerial committee to discuss issues of common concern and convene its

first meeting in Australia in October of this year.

The two sides also underlined the importance of further increasing trade which, according to Petra, reached \$120 million last year.

In the meeting, Mr. Abul Ragheb explicated Jordanian measures to privatise government institutions and give the private sector a greater role in the country's economy, Petra reported.

He also thanked Australia for supporting Jordan's application to join the World Trade Organisation.

Minister of Supply Munir Sobar met with Mr. Fischer to discuss issues relating to

supply and the importation of five Australian sheep to Jordan.

Also attending the meeting was Director General of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Sameh Madani who affirmed that, last year, Jordan exported 360,000 tonnes of phosphate to Australia, a sum which is expected to rise to 400,000 tonnes next year.

The Australian deputy prime minister later concluded a brief visit to Jordan and then left for Tel Aviv.

Mr. Fischer, who has visited several Arab countries, plans to travel to Palestine after his visit to Israel.

## 129 returnees to receive partial compensation

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One hundred and twenty-nine Jordanian claimants for losses resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 will receive partial compensation this month.

But, a source said from the Jordan Returnees Compensation Centre, "it's not going to be much."

Yahia Al Uteibi, head of the centre, told the Jordan Times that the first installment of \$328,000 will be paid within the coming week.

Jordanians have filed more than 110,000 claims for compensation from the U.N. Compensation Committee, established by U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq and based in Geneva. According to Mr. El Uteibi, the claims collectively total \$3.5 billion.

Claimants fall under six categories: "A" (losses due to departure from Kuwait during the invasion); "B" (serious personal injury or death); "C" (individual losses less than \$100,000); "D" (individual losses greater than \$100,000 and which has no ceiling); "E" (compensation for losses suffered by corporations); and "F" (losses suffered by international organisations and governments). All are entitled to a minimum of \$2,500 in compensation.

The majority of Jordanian claimants fall into categories A and C. The upcoming dispatch will be paid to 123 claimants in category A (from a total of 54,000 claims awarded) and 6 in category C, recently converted from category B.

Mr. El-Uteibi said that a second installment, estimated at \$60 million, for 24,000 claims in the two categories should be dispensed in August.

Compensation for individuals claiming damages from the Gulf war comes from proceeds of the "oil-for-food" deal signed between Iraq and the United Nations under which Iraq was allowed to sell \$1 billion worth of oil every three months to pay for food and medicine.

Thirty-two per cent of the revenues are to be channelled to the committee, established in 1992, to dispense compensation.

Thus far, the committee has been slow to provide compensation due to a lack of funding attributed to the delay of the deal signed only last May, however, not implemented until December.

Prior to the signing of the oil-for-food deal, the commission had received only \$50 million to distribute to cover 2.6 million claims worth more than \$200 billion collectively.

The deal should provide about \$100 million a month from the compensation fund, which has thus far rendered \$2,022,500 for Jordanian claimants in category "B".

According to Mr. Al Uteibi, compensation is the "last hope" for many Jordanians who returned from the Gulf.

"Less than 20 per cent of them live in comfort," he said. "By comfort, I mean have the means to satisfy security needs — food and housing."

"The majority of returnees who brought savings with them have exhausted that resource, and they are desperate," he said. "The majority are unemployed."

According to the Jordanian compensation centre's statistics, 83 per cent of Jordan's 420,000 returnees remain without gainful employment.

## Student files case against his former university

By Sacha Baggili  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The former student of a private university in Amman is taking legal action against its owners for jeopardising his future by allegedly failing to follow correct enrolment procedures as stipulated by the Ministry of Higher Education.

A document detailing specific requirements for students wishing to attend Jordanian universities contains one particular clause which states that foreign students who have not acquired the Tawjihi grade qualifications may attend university if the institution's acceptance is formally "approved" by the Ministry of Higher Education.

According to the student, who requested anonymity, in September 1994, subsequent to his arrival in Jordan from Kuwait, he was advised by the university president to commence studies at the university, assuring him that administrative procedures concerning approval by the ministry would be taken care of by the president.

"Upon this advice, I resumed studies confident that correct procedures had been taken and that I was then legally attending the

university," he said. The student maintained that it was not until mid-1996 that the reality of his status at the university was brought to his attention, when he was informed that he was not eligible to re-sit a university exam.

He told the Jordan Times that the university authorities justified their actions as due to the absence of his name on a list of foreign students approved by the Ministry of Higher Education.

"This is an administrative mess," the student's lawyer declared. "The president was clearly violating regulations as stipulated by the ministry by allowing the student to take courses at the university prior to securing ministerial approval."

He continued that this malpractice was compounded by university authorities as the student, uninformed of this situation, attended university courses for the following two years, proffering a total sum of JD 3,375 in university fees.

This lawyer displayed two copied documents, the first, a list of five foreign students sent by the university to the ministry and the second, a list of four foreign students actually

approved by the ministry in October 1994.

He asserted that "the university president should have immediately contacted the ministry regarding the absence of this student's name and should have instantly informed the student of these difficulties."

Officials from the Ministry of Higher Education stated that due to the time lapse of over two years, they are unable to secure the reasons for the rejection of this student's name.

However, responsibility for the situation lies in the hands of the university president, they maintained.

The student's lawyer told the Jordan Times that a further complication in the endeavour to determine the reasons behind "this mess," is the transfer of appointment to the position of university president from one man to another in October of 1995.

Waving papers bearing academic credits granted to him by the university during his two years of attendance, the student exclaimed, "these mean nothing, all my hard work counts for nothing and two years of my life have been wasted."

He also maintained that several weeks after he had first begun to attend lec-

tures, he asked the president to update him on the progress of procedures concerning the aforementioned ministerial approval of his acceptance to the university.

"He told me to concentrate on my studies and leave administrative concerns to him," the student said. "Comforted by this response, I took his advice and never doubted that everything was being taken care of."

Another example of the university's failure to follow correct legal procedures was cited by the student's lawyer.

"By law, all public and private universities must publish a list of students legally enrolled at the beginning of every academic year," he said. "Previous to 1996 the university in question never complied with this regulation."

Despite several attempts on the part of the Jordan Times, no response by the university authorities was forthcoming.

Having now attained a permit from the Court of First Instance to access all documents regarding this student's attendance and payments, the student's lawyer expects court procedures to resume sometime next week.

## What's Going On

### FILMS

- \* Spanish film "Requiem for Grenada" (pts IV and V) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabbal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- \* "Monet: Legacy of Light" (with commentary in Arabic by Adnan Al Shari) at Darat Al Fann, Jabbal Weibdeh, on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- \* "Dead Poets Society" at the American Centre, Abdoun, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

### CONCERT

- \* Performance by Severacek Girls Choir at Mount Nebo, Madaba on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

### FIFTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

- \* Two films entitled "The Hole" and "The Sa'louk Revolution" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday respectively at 1:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- \* Two films entitled "The Spider" and "The Sa'louk Revolution" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday respectively at 1:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Fifth annual American computer show at Philadelphia Hotel, until March 14.
- \* UNICR photo exhibition by Brazilian/French photographer Sebastiao Salgado at Forte Grand Hotel, until March 15.
- \* Works by Paris-based Syrian artist Ziad Dallout at Darat Al Fann, Jabbal Weibdeh, until April 3. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.
- \* Sculptures by Zaki Sallam at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until March 15.

## Young girl's body retrieved Girls taken to hospital after fire breaks out in school kitchen

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) Wednesday announced the retrieval of the body of 10-year old Maha Fawzi Khader, some five kilometres away from where she drowned in last month's floods in Amman.

The young girl was reported to have drowned while on her way to school on Feb. 23 and carried through a culvert near the Seventh Circle.

Her body was found in a rain pool at Deir Ghabar near the Sweifieh district of Amman.

According to a CDD official, a heavy accumulation of mud impeded the search.

CDD Director Theeb Maani expressed his condolences to the bereaved family.

Last month's floods caused death of two other children at Jweideh, approximately 20 kilometres south of Amman.

Also Wednesday, a total of 28 students at the Jubeha Secondary School for Girls sustained slight

injuries and, in some cases, fainting spells following a fire in the school kitchen, CDD reports stated.

According to the report, the accident, which occurred at 10:30 a.m., was caused by electric failure.

The report said that the girls, aged between seven and eighteen, were evacuated by CDD rescue units and treated at the Jordan University Hospital.

Some students were injured while rushing out of the school to escape the fire, it added.

The girls were listed in fair condition at the hospital, treated and discharged.

Minister of Administrative Development and acting Minister of Education Kamal Naser visited the girls and inspected the treatment accorded to them.

The minister later visited the school and inspected restoration work there.



## Zairean rebels resist pressure for ceasefire

GOMA, Zaire (Agencies) — Zairean rebels rejected Wednesday diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire, saying their forces were pushing on towards a showdown at the garrison city of Kisangani.

"Kisangani is in our grip and we are putting constant pressure on the town. The people are waiting for us and it will soon be over," Raphael Ngenda, rebel information commissioner, told Reuters in the eastern border town of Goma.

The rebels have forecast the imminent fall of Kisangani, the capital of the northeast and the main rebel target, for days.

Their reports of clashes this week have suggested growing resistance from Zaire's mercenary-backed army, making what is widely seen as its last stand in eastern Zaire in Kisangani.

With fighting once again stirring international concern for refugees trapped for months in the jungle, the United States Tuesday rejected renewed pressure from France for U.N. intervention but said it was still pursuing a Zaire ceasefire.

"We are not prepared right now to sign on to a multinational force," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

He said U.S. officials would continue to discuss the multinational force idea, put forward by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and backed by France.

"We think that actually what's being done is the best way to help the refugees and to stop the fighting — to pursue the ceasefire and to continue to encourage the United Nations to deliver this humanitarian assistance," he said.

Witnesses said at a rally in the eastern town of Kindu

Tuesday rebel leader Laurent Kabila received a resounding "no" from a crowd of thousands of people asked if they wanted a ceasefire.

Kinshasa says it will accept a five-point U.N. plan which includes a ceasefire, but rebels say a ceasefire can come only after negotiations which are themselves subject to rebel terms.

There were signs that the five-month-old conflict could take on wider dimensions. U.N. sources and diplomats said Angolan government troops and former UNITA rebels had moved into Zaire in recent weeks with some involved in fighting in the east.

A U.N. official said UNITA troops had been flown out of bases in UNITA-held territory to help the government of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko in its fight against the rebels.

"We think at least 2,000 UNITA troops have been sent to Zaire. Most of these are fighting troops," the source said.

He said UNITA got involved to keep open vital supply routes out of Zaire to its bases in the north and east of Angola.

The role of Angolan government soldiers was not as clear but sources said technical advisers had been sent to assist the Zairean rebels amid hopes of curbing off the UNITA supplies.

Zaire accuses neighbouring Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi of helping the rebels, a charge they deny. "There are no foreign soldiers or advisers of any kind helping us," said Mr. Ngenda.

Zaire's Defence Ministry said the army, which has sown land mines round Kisangani, was set for war

there but rejected suggestions by the rebels they were within 10 kilometres of the city.

"They are around 40 kilometres from Kisangani. We are still on a war footing," a ministry spokesman told Reuters.

Zairean Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo vowed Wednesday that Kisangani "will not fall" to rebels advancing from the east.

"We will defend Kisangani, which has become the central point of the war," he said in a meeting with the press.

He refused to speculate on what would happen if the rebels took control of the city, which is the government's headquarters in its battle against the uprising by Tutsi rebels.

"That is a hypothesis that I do not envisage," he said. "Kisangani will not fall."

Mr. Kengo also said that a decision by the U.N. Security Council not to create a multinational force for Zaire was "regrettable," blaming Britain and the United States for the move.

"The international community, under pressure from the United States and great Britain, gives the impression that it is not interested in the tragedy in the great lakes," he said, adding that it was "perhaps because it involves Africans."

Mr. Kengo's comments came as reliable sources reported that 35 rebel troops had been killed in a clash with the army about 80 kilometres away from Kisangani.

The clash occurred Tuesday afternoon on the road towards Bafwende, which has been the scene of frequent clashes between rebel and government forces for the past month, with neither side able to establish final control.



Army Privates. (left to right) Brandi Krewson, Kelly Wagner, Darla Hornberger, behind microphones, Kathryn Leming, in blue jersey, and Toni Moreland (far right), attend a press conference in Aberdeen Proving Grounds, where they recanted statements made previously about the army sex scandal at Aberdeen Proving Grounds (Reuter photo)

## U.S. recruits 'were pressured' to make rape charges

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Five female U.S. army recruits claimed Tuesday that investigators probing a sexual harassment scandal tried to pressure them into accusing their drill instructors of rape.

The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), which brought the five white women forth at a news conference in Aberdeen, Maryland, said the new information shows the need for an independent investigation.

The army's criminal investigation department investigators "made it very easy for people who had not been raped to say they were, and in most cases that I know of that is the situation," said Darla Hornberger, one of the soldiers.

The NAACP has raised concern that black sergeants are being singled out unfairly in the investigation, introducing race as a second potent social issue to the mix.

"Everyone charged or investigated has been black and that is very disturbing," said Janice Grant, head of the local NAACP chapter.

"There's always been that black man-white woman thing," she said. "And what's wrong with that? It has been going on since David and Bathsheba."

Army Secretary Togo West rebuffed demands for an independent investigation, saying the criminal proceedings should go forth first.

"It is my job and determination that we will assure the fact of fairness in these proceedings, and to the extent that I am able the perception of fairness in the proceedings as well," he told reporters.

An army spokesman said it would be "inappropriate" to comment on the women's charges because all were involved in pending investigations.

But he said none of their statements, to investigators had anything to do with rape charges. Under army regulations, any sexual relations between members is considered "fraternisation," and is illegal.

"We must ensure that these cases are tried in the courtroom and not in the newsroom," said Lieutenant Colonel

Gabriel Riesco, the spokesman.

"The veracity of all involved should be determined through the legal system and therefore we will not respond to any statement made by those involved in this investigation."

The women had been newly recruited trainees at the Aberdeen proving ground, an army training base at the center of a sexual abuse scandal that has rocked the military.

So far, charges ranging from rapes of recruits to fraternisation have been brought against 12 drill instructors and a captain, and about 20 others are under investigation, a spokeswoman at the base said. Three face court-martials.

The army would not say how many of the accused were black, but acknowledged that a majority were.

The women, four of whom were in uniform and the other now a civilian, appeared frightened and on the verge of tears as they went before news cameras to tell their stories, which were difficult to follow.

They said they were limited in what they could say because of pending investigations, but they seemed bitter that army promises of immunity had failed to materialise and they were being kept at the base pending the investigations.

They said they had not accused anybody of rape, but were told by investigators that consensual sex was considered rape under the uniformed code of military justice.

"I agreed to tell them what they wanted to hear in order to be left alone," said Kathryn Leming, a former private who is now out of the army.

One of the women, Toni Moreland, said she made a statement falsely alleging she had consensual sex with a drill sergeant after being pressured by investigators.

"The NAACP strongly believes that there is clearly now as never before a greater need for an independent investigation of these charges," said Kweisi Mfume, head of the black civil rights group.

Mr. Mfume said the organisation believed there were possible violations of the civil rights of the accusers and the accused.

## Russian Duma approves amnesty for Chechens

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's Lower House of Parliament Wednesday overwhelmingly approved on a final reading an amnesty for Chechens and others who took part in the region's secessionist war against Russian forces.

The State Duma, dominated by President Boris Yeltsin's Communist opponents, backed the amnesty by 262 votes to eight.

Duma officials said the amnesty declaration, in the form of a "parliamentary resolution" in line with government policy, had the force of law. Its main aim is

to win the release of Russian prisoners-of-war by exchanging them for Chechens in detention.

It does not cover Chechen fighters who staged "terrorist" acts in the course of the 21-month war or other criminals classified as dangerous repeat offenders.

The amnesty does extend to Russian servicemen who declined to take part in the conflict, but excludes those who gave weapons to the Chechens, leaving in some doubt the status of soldiers suspected of desertion.

The Russian military authorities have accused of

desertion many Russian servicemen who have remained in Chechnya despite the army's official withdrawal.

The measure does not extend to foreigners. A number of volunteers from Muslim countries fought on the Chechen side as did some anti-Russian fighters from former Soviet Republics, including Ukraine and the Baltic States.

There are no accurate figures, but both sides in the conflict say the other is holding hundreds, perhaps thousands, of prisoners. Their exchange, agreed in

August's ceasefire, is one of the trickiest issues in continuing peace negotiations.

The Duma earlier approved a resolution giving the presidential committee responsible for prisoner exchanges carte blanche to release Chechens from Russian prisons in cases where this would win the freedom of captive Russians.

Moscow accuses the Chechens of seeking freedom for common criminals. The Chechen separatists accuse Russia of classifying its guerrilla fighters as criminals in Russian jails.

## Clinton appeals again for campaign finance reform

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Tuesday pressed his appeal for campaign finance reform and asked broadcasters to give free air time to candidates.

"We have to use the present intense interest in this as well as the controversy over all the fund-raising in the last election and all the publicity on it as a spur to action," Mr. Clinton said in a speech to a group dedicated to obtaining free TV time for political candidates as a means of reducing the impact of money on U.S. election campaigns.

"We cannot let it become what it is in danger of becoming, which is an excuse for inaction," he said.

Although he made no mention of a campaign financing probe about to get underway in the Senate, Democrat Clinton seemed to be referring to a decision by Senate Republican leaders not to examine campaign financing loopholes such as a lack of limits on cash given to parties rather than to candidates.

He backs a reform bill that would ban so-called "soft money" dona-

tions — cash given to the parties for general political purposes and not earmarked for particular candidates. Many see that as a prime source of abuse.

"Do not let the controversy become an excuse to do nothing and to wallow around in it," the president said. "Use it as a spur to change the system because until you change the system, you will have controversies over the amount, the sheer amount of money that is raised in these elections."

The reform bill would also reward candidates who agree to voluntary spending limits with up to 30 minutes of free air time each election on the station or stations of their choice.

Mr. Clinton proposed linking free air time for candidates to the advent of high-definition digital television.

"I believe broadcasters who receive digital licenses should provide free air time for candidates," he said. "Free air time for candidates can help free our democracy from the grip of big money."

## Australia disbands last Police Special Branch

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's last surviving police special branch was disbanded Wednesday following allegations of improper activity at a police corruption inquiry.

The New South Wales state police commissioner said more than 20 officers up to the rank of superintendent would be relocated and an inquiry held into the squad's intelligence files.

"They have acted inappropriately in pursuing some of the activities that they have conducted...and that is inappropriate in my police service," said Commissioner Peter Ryan, who pledged to tackle corruption when he took on the post last August.

The police inquiry has been told New South Wales Police Special branch officers protected senior public figures from prosecution, misused funds meant to pay informants and kept files on lawyers and civil libertarians.

## Quake hits Philippines; no casualties reported

MANILA (R) — An earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter Scale jolted the southern Philippines Wednesday, triggering a fire in a hospital and forcing dozens of patients to flee, but no casualties were reported.

The tremor at 3:21 a.m. (1921 GMT Tuesday) rocked several cities on Mindanao Island but scientists said they expected no major damage because the epicentre was in the sea at a depth of 100 kilometres and well away from heavily-populated areas.

"When it is that deep, it would have dissipated much

of its energy by the time it reached the surface," senior government seismologist Delfin Garcia told Reuters.

The third floor of Capital College General Hospital in Cagayan De Oro city, 750 kilometres south of Manila, was gutted by a fire caused by an electrical short-circuit during the earthquake, fire investigator Maximo Carreon said by telephone.

Rescue workers safely evacuated 29 patients.

The fire was put out within an hour. A building adjoining the hospital developed some cracks, officials said.

No damage or casualties

## France, Germany push EU on foreign policy

BRUSSELS (R) — Three months before European Union (EU) treaty talks are due to end, negotiators appear finally to be making progress in the area of foreign policy.

France and Germany, always keen to be on the same page in EU affairs, presented plans Monday calling for creation of a more public face for the EU's diplomacy and for advance preparations in dealing with crises abroad.

They also called for the gradual incorporation of the Western European Union (WEU) defence grouping into the EU proper.

Although a number of countries — notably sovereignist Britain and neutrals like Sweden — are wary of further integration in the military and foreign policy fields, others are coming closer together.

"The elements of an agreement are clearly taking shape," Dutch European Affairs Minister Michiel Patijn said Tuesday after the main treaty-negotiating committee had discussed the proposals.

Mr. Patijn chairs the committee, which is due to present a new treaty to EU leaders at a summit in June in Amsterdam.

Under the plan proposed by Paris and Bonn and supported by Spain, Italy and Belgium among others, the EU would draw up a list of "common strategies" in certain areas without waiting for a crisis to erupt or take the bloc by surprise.

The list would be limited, French European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier said, in order to ensure that common foreign policy fell strictly in areas of interest to the whole union.

EU enlargement, relations with Russia, the Balkans and the Mediterranean basin would be included, he said. But areas such as the Middle East and Africa, where there are no lack of disputes, may be left out.

Responsibility for coordinating EU policy would fall to a senior high-profile official, an idea pushed by France and, despite earlier reservations, now more or less endorsed by Germany.

Foreign policy decisions, strategic goals and the methods for achieving them would be agreed unanimously among EU states.

But once a list of policies had been agreed, they would be implemented by majority vote in order to avoid the EU's well-documented penchant for paralysis.

As well as focusing on foreign policy, France and Germany also proposed the progressive inclusion of the WEU into the main bloc.

They did not suggest an eventual deadline for the incorporation to take place, but Werber Hoyer, Germany's negotiator, said it could be within 10 years.

WEU membership would be limited to those EU countries that are also members of NATO, in order to avoid having neutrals — Austria, Sweden, Finland and Ireland — weakening the military group's security guarantees.

## Clinton's CIA nominee defends his record before Congress

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Anthony Lake, nominated to head the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Tuesday defended the White House's decision to allow secret arms deliveries to Bosnia three years ago.

"Our decision was a tough one, but the right one," said Mr. Lake, who was President Bill Clinton's national security advisor when the White House gave the move the green light in 1994 without informing Congress.

"I have no apologies for that policy. But I do appreciate that it would have been better to have informed key members of Congress on a discreet basis," Mr. Lake told the Senate Intelligence Committee as his hearings for confirmation as CIA director began.

Mr. Lake promised the Republicans who control the intelligence committee as well as the Senate as a whole that he would keep them informed of similar actions were he confirmed as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Clinton's nominee was expected to face a long, bruising confirmation hearing before the Republicans who control the Intelligence Committee as well as the Senate.

Republicans have criticised the arms deliveries, saying the action violated an international arms embargo and boosted Iran's influence in the region.

Senators also reportedly

hold a grudge against him for having kept them in the dark about the transaction.

Mr. Lake said he and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott advised Mr. Clinton that the U.S. should "stay out of it and that this would mean the arms would likely flow" into Bosnia via Croatia.

"If we had approved, the allies would surely have learned of it."

This in turn would have led to a significant rift with our allies, prompted their likely withdrawal from UNPROFOR and Bosnia, and undermined NATO, leading to further bloodshed and calls for U.S. intervention," Mr. Lake said.

But Mr. Lake said the move was "not covert action," a designation which would have required that the White House notify Congress.

Mr. Lake also defended himself against accusations he had clung to an investment portfolio even though the White House had repeatedly told him to get rid of it to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Mr. Lake recently was fined \$5,000 in connection with holding on to those investments.

And Mr. Lake denied he knew anything about a campaign finance controversy that has widened a rift between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the White House.

On Monday the White House revealed that last

summer, the FBI had informed two members of the National Security Council (NSC) of Beijing's plans to pour money into the campaigns of six members of Congress.

The White House says the FBI told the NSC officials to keep that information to themselves. However, the FBI says the NSC representatives were authorised to pass on that information to their superiors, who include Mr. Lake.

Mr. Lake echoed the White House line, telling the committee: "I do not know the character of the information they (the NSC staffers) were given."

Public hearings were expected to last through Wednesday and Thursday, then behind closed doors. Several members of the Senate have expressed support for Mr. Lake.

But several Republicans, including committee Chairman Richard Shelby, have expressed doubts about confirming Mr. Lake's appointment to a position they said requires "unimpeachable integrity."

For several weeks the White House has vigorously defended Mr. Lake's reputation. Experts say he should have enough votes to win confirmation.

If he survives the Senate grilling, Mr. Lake would become the fifth CIA director in five years and would face the difficult task of reforming an agency rocked by spy scandals.

Monday passed a revised version of the bill watering down key clauses, including one making layoffs easier.

## S. Korean president signs new labour law

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's president signed a labour bill into law Wednesday to replace legislation that sparked a wave of strikes after it was rammed through last December, a presidential spokesman said.

Kim Young-Sam, in a special message to the nation marking the introduction of the law, urged a "grand compromise" between management and labour to help improve South Korea's in-

ternational competitiveness.

"On the occasion of declaring the new labour law, we must all start building the future of prosperity and abundance by establishing new labour-management relations of participation and cooperation," he said.

A government official said the law would come into force Thursday when it is formally gazetted.

South Korean labour unions have threatened to organise strikes in protest

against the new law, but economic analysts said workers had lost their appetite for industrial action.

Mr. Kim hailed the new legislation as having historic significance, but it has drawn scorn and criticism from corporate management and unions.

Parliament Monday passed a revised version of the bill watering down key clauses, including one making layoffs easier.





A gunman identified as Allen Griffin carries a shotgun into a branch of the Comerica Bank branch in northeast Detroit as two customers lay on the floor during the robbery attempt, as seen from the bank's surveillance camera Tuesday. The gunman killed two bank employees and wounded another before taking the life of a hostage outside the bank. He was later killed by police (Reuters photo)

## 4, including gunman, dead in Detroit rampage

DETROIT (R) — Singing the Lord's prayer during a horrific shotgun rampage, a man dressed in camouflage killed two bank employees and a hostage Tuesday in an apparent robbery attempt before police shot him dead in a hail of bullets.

The shooting spree also left two wounded, including a young male jogger the gunman shot in the face on the street before entering the Comerica Bank branch on Detroit's East Side, police said.

The gunman, 21-year-old Allen Griffin, apparently was depressed over a failing marriage and other domestic problems, said family members in suburban Ferndale, Michigan.

The father of three young children, he had a history of arrests, including burglary at age 12 and concealed weapons and controlled substances at 17, and was wanted for violation of parole.

"He was drugging it. He felt like no one was there

for him," Griffin's sister, Christina, told WXYZ-TV. "But I know my brother, it just don't seem like he would do something that illogical."

The incident started on a residential street about two blocks from the bank branch when Allen Griffin, dressed in a gray and white camouflage jacket with a marching cap, shot 23-year-old Eric Skalneck in the face as he was jogging with his friend's dog, police said.

Detroit Police Chief Isiah McKinnon said Griffin then stole a car and drove it to the bank, went inside, ordered people to lay on the floor, and according to at least one person, demanded money.

But he immediately shot and wounded the bank's assistant manager and ordered a security guard to leave. Griffin then shot and killed two other employees.

"At that point, he made all the people who were on the floor start to sing the Lord's prayer," Mr. McKinnon

said. "He then sang with them. And he was yelling obscenities at them and again singing."

With a shotgun in one hand and a cane in the other, Griffin left the bank, which was surrounded by police alerted by a silent alarm. But police could not stop an elderly man identified as Stanley Hayes, who happened upon the scene, from walking up to the bank's automatic teller machine.

Griffin grabbed Hayes, took him hostage and shot him in an alley, whereupon the police opened fire and killed him.

Mr. McKinnon said Griffin was shot about five or six times, but witnesses said scores of officers opened fire on him.

Killed inside the bank were the branch office manager, Stanley Pijanowski III, 52, and James Isom, 25, a retail services representative. Lisa Griffin, 38, the assistant branch manager, was wounded in the chin when the shot aimed at her

bounced off the floor first.

Griffin, no relation to the gunman, was listed in fair condition at St. John Hospital and Medical Centre in Detroit, while Mr. Skalneck was listed in serious condition.

Charlene McDonald, who was in the bank with her children, said she watched in terror as the gunman killed two employees.

"He cocked his gun and he shot, but it didn't go off," Ms. McDonald said. "So when he did it again, I looked over there to see who he was going to shoot, but the person was laying on their side, and when he got ready to shoot, they closed their eyes and put their hand up there (over their face) and he just shot 'em in the head."

"Before he got to me, he shot somebody else," Ms. McDonald said, adding that she and her children managed to escape unhurt when the gunman turned his back.

## Indians scramble for wonder drug for memory

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India has developed a wonder drug to enhance memory with the help of a well-known medicinal plant, and people here are lapping it up.

The "Memory Plus" capsules are doing roaring business across the country since they were developed by the state-owned Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) last year, officials said.

"It is going to be a potential winner in the global market," said Minister of State for Science and Technology Y.K. Alagh.

"Basically it tends to improve memory fairly substantially in six to eight weeks."

"Some friends who have used it say they have liked it," he told AFP. "There has been a lot of demand from MPs (members of parliament).

Generally, our parliament is very bullish on (traditional) medicines."

The three-rupee (eight-cent) capsule reportedly has many high-profile users, including Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, former Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and chess celebrity Vishwanathan Anand.

The "Memory Plus" capsule is based on the traditional Indian system of medicine called Ayurveda and has been extracted from Bacopa Monnieri, a plant found near rivers and known locally as Brahmi. It is believed to be a memory booster.

Experts prescribe one capsule of "Memory Plus" in the morning and one in the evening.

"We are very happy with the way the drug is doing in the market," said CDRI's

director V.P. Kambhoj. "It has been accepted very well. It is selling very well."

Mr. Kambhoj said the drug had been tested on animals but not on humans "since Indian people have been using Brahmi for ages."

"But we know it is very, very safe, and has no side effects."

Mr. Kambhoj, 60, said the new drug "facilitates learning, consolidates knowledge and helps in the retrieval of knowledge."

"If you already have sharp memory, well, you cannot expect a miracle," he added.

Mr. Kambhoj did not give figures for sales or profits. The CDRI has given a seven-year licence to a shampoo maker in the Indian city of Madras to market the drug backed with a high-profile media blitz.

Some dealers say that

besides improving memory, "Memory Plus" also leads to healthy hair and controls blood pressure. That, critics argue, could just be an exaggeration with an eye on more fast bucks.

"I also recommend Brahmi for enhancing memory," said an Indian Ayurveda doctor, Ashwani Kumar.

"But there is no guarantee that Brahmi extract can be a guarantee to better memory."

"Different patients have different constitutions, and we doctors have to see what suits whom," he said. "To say that a drug can guarantee good memory is just commercial talk."

Alagh obviously does not agree. "I think it's a great drug," he said. "I may well end up using it because I am getting old. It will also be very good dietary supplement."

## Japan's worst nuclear accident contaminates 35

TOKAIMURA, Japan (R) — A fire and explosion at a nuclear reprocessing plant contaminated at least 35 workers with minor radiation in Japan's worst atomic accident, authorities said Wednesday.

The incident Tuesday night put Japan's nuclear industry in the eye of a storm with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto forced to apologise to the nation and angry questions asked about how the incident happened.

Nuclear spokesmen were on the defensive about why the fire was not properly extinguished, leading to an explosion 10 hours later which endangered 62 cleanup workers.

In an unlikely alliance, Mr. Hashimoto and environmental groups joined in condemning authorities for their slowness in disclosing the extent of the accident, which occurred at a state-run power reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation (PNC) plant at Tokaimura, 160 kilometres northeast of Tokyo.

Some radiation escaped but at levels far below those that would pose health risks to the public, a PNC spokesman said. He said the accident was the worst on record in terms of number of people exposed to radiation.

There were no evacuations and all contaminated workers were allowed to go home with a clean bill of health, having sustained contamination of less than 0.2 per cent of the admissible maximum annual intake, the spokesman told reporters.

Tokaimura residents, who depend heavily on the plant for jobs, said despite the furore life was back to normal in the town with schools and shops all open.

Failure to completely put out the initial blaze nearly resulted in tragedy as it led to an explosion in a separate room 10 hours later that sent steel debris flying just as 62

cleanup engineers prepared to enter the building. Investigators in protective clothes and with geiger counters had not determined the exact reason for the fire and explosion at the four-storey plant but were certain they were linked.

PNC officials said the fire broke out on a turntable in a bituminisation facility for low-level nuclear waste near the main reprocessing plant.

The facility is used to mix irradiated liquid waste, a by-product of the main spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant, with asphalt, for storage in drums.

The Tokaimura plant is Japan's only nuclear reprocessing facility, extracting plutonium from spent nuclear fuel. The plant reprocesses about 12 per cent of spent nuclear fuel from Japan's 50 running commercial nuclear power plants, with the rest reprocessed at French plants.

Prime Minister Hashimoto criticised the PNC's slow and "inadequate" first reports of the accident.

"What I regret most is the fact that the PNC did not provide an adequate and speedy report on the fire and radiation leak after having been exposed to severe public criticism of its conduct over the Monju affair," Mr. Hashimoto told parliament.

In December 1995, the PNC came under criticism over the cover-up of a huge coolant leak at Monju, Japan's only fast-breeder reactor. Although the accident at Monju did not leak radiation, the reactor remains closed.

"We deeply regret that Tuesday's accident caused concern among residents," PNC chairman Toshiyuki Kondo told a news conference. "I do not think there was a cover-up but I admit there was a delay in our report to the government."

Anti-nuclear groups said the PNC was not to be trusted.

## Residents of Albanian capital reportedly loot military academy

TIRANA (AFP) — Residents of the Albanian capital Tirana looted a military academy Wednesday for weapons, witnesses told AFP, the first such incident in the capital since widespread unrest began seven weeks ago.

They said some of the looters fired guns into the air but that soldiers present did not intervene. The academy is about one kilometre from the city centre.

Journalists not far from the academy heard shooting and saw at least three civilians coming from the military school carrying Kalashnikov rifles. "They're free today," said one of the looters.

Despite the incident local residents appeared calm and were going about their daily business normally.

There were no police in the area. The academy has only a limited number of weapons, reliable sources said.

The uprising had been limited to the southern quarter of the Balkans nation, but on Wednesday rebels looted a factory in Mjeksi, south of Tirana, that makes weapons, ammunition and explosives, officials said.

By mid-day Wednesday, insurgents were in control of 14 cities and towns, the

latest being Gramsh, 100 kilometres south of the capital, in defiance of a state of emergency, now in its 10th day.

On Tuesday President Sali Berisha had named a new government, headed by a 35-year-old economist from the rival Socialist camp, Bashkim Fino.

Overnight Tuesday, young army conscripts in Tirana celebrated the end of their tours of duty by chanting "Berisha! Berisha!" outside the presidency and firing their weapons — thus raising the tension level in the capital.

"Everything is possible," a diplomat said Wednesday. "Albania has entered a period of instability that could last even after the next elections in June."

In Copenhagen, former Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said he would head back to Albania Thursday on behalf of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to try and mediate the crisis.

Dr. Vranitzky made the announcement after meeting with Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen of Denmark, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the OSCE, to brief him on his trip to Tirana last

week. Dr. Vranitzky said he would remain in Albania through Friday.

It was too early to tell whether Tuesday's appointment of a new government would help in any way to arrest the spreading chaos.

Mr. Fino, the youngest prime minister in Albania's recent history, is not well known, but until October 1996 elections he had been mayor of Gjirokastra, one of the towns in the south now under rebel control.

The Interior Ministry was to remain under the control of Mr. Berisha's Democratic Party, with the Socialists — with one eye on upcoming elections — to get a secretary of state within this key portfolio.

The Defence Ministry, meanwhile, is to be held by the Socialists, who are the successors to the Communist Party that ran Albania until the early 1990s, a statement from the president's office said.

Insurgents Wednesday were still demanding that Mr. Berisha himself resign, while the opposition was expected to continue haggling over the appointment of cabinet ministers for the new administration.

Albania's troubles began in January with the collapse

of fraudulent investment schemes that robbed many Albanians of their life savings — a serious blow for Europe's poorest country.

Protests to demand compensation went on for weeks, until the weekend of March 1 when mobs in the south began to raid military depots, arming themselves with handguns, rifles and even a few tanks.

On Tuesday, mobs looted a weapons depot in the northern town of Kukës, 16 kilometres from the border with Serbia, according to a journalist contacted by telephone from Tirana.

But, as in a similar incident earlier Tuesday in Bajram Curri, 20 kilometres from Kosovo, the Serbian province with an overwhelming ethnic Albanian population, the looters' motives were not fully clear.

In Sarandë, a southern resort town that was one of the first to be taken by the insurgents, 150 to 200 people demonstrated in the streets Wednesday against an attempt by looters to ransack a local clinic.

Doctors led the demonstration in defence of the Lukani Clinic, which is still under construction with the help of British funding.

## Taiwan to repatriate 2 Chinese hijackers

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan said Wednesday it plans to send back two mainland Chinese hijackers on parole on the island despite a lack of a formal hijacker repatriation agreement between Taipei and Beijing.

The hijacker, a Taiwanese man, is being held by Chinese police.

"We have already asked the Straits Exchange Foundation to arrange repatriation procedures with the mainland," Shi Hwei-Yow, vice-chairman of the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council, said on state television.

The foundation is Taiwan's Quasi-official agency responsible for dialogue with China in the absence of official ties.

Mr. Shi identified the two mainland Chinese eligible for repatriation as Huang Shugang and Han Fengying. Each hijacked a plane to Taiwan in 1993.

Both Mr. Huang, who was given a seven-year sentence for air piracy, and Mr. Han, who was handed a six-year term, had been released on parole but not deported, despite China's urging.

"As long as it follows our former reached understanding, we can still launch (repatriation) on a case-by-case evaluation even though there is no formal signed agreement," Mr. Shi said.

Taiwan and China, rivals since splitting after a civil war in 1949, reached a semi-official accord in January 1995 on repatriating hijackers, but subsequent political tensions thwarted the deal's signing.

Taipei has urged China to repatriate a Taiwanese unemployed newsman who forced a commercial jet to fly to China's southeastern port of Xiamen Monday.

The hijacker, Liu Shan-Chung, accused Taiwan of political repression and has asked for asylum.

But analysts said Taipei's case had been weakened by its own refusal to repatriate 16 mainlanders, most of whom were arrested in a string of 12 hijackings in 1993 and 1994.

Mr. Shi said Taiwan's decision to deport Mr. Huang and Mr. Han would "create a better channel" for future cross-strait negotiations on hijacker repatriation.

## Russia premier vows liberal cabinet; Communists enraged

MOSCOW (R) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Wednesday he was forming a new government of liberal reformers, in a reshuffle the Communist opposition branded "ruthless" for Russia and vowed to fight.

President Boris Yeltsin, firmly back at the helm after many months of illness, has given the premier one week to reorganise his cabinet. Only Mr. Chernomyrdin and new first Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais are assured of keeping their jobs.

"Professional market economists, firm supporters of the president's course of reforms, will come into the government," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Chernomyrdin as saying.

He gave no names of future cabinet members but said they would be people under 50 with experience of state management.

"Now there are all possibilities of forming a united and effective team of serious and responsible professionals," Mr. Chernomyrdin said, adding personnel changes could be announced even faster than in the seven days given by Mr. Yeltsin.

The State Duma lower house of parliament, dominated by Mr. Yeltsin's Communist opponents, passed in the first reading a toughly worded draft resolution condemning the reshuffle and demanding a reversal of the changes.

"The changes carried out in the government again illustrate the desire of the current authorities to continue the ruinous social-economic course which has brought Russia to the brink of catastrophe," said the draft motion.

"They are an eloquent testimony to the readiness of the leadership to subject Russia and her vital interests to the diktat of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and foreign capital," said the resolution, drafted by the Communist faction.

Amendments to the document will be discussed later Wednesday.

Opposition deputies have been particularly enraged by Mr. Yeltsin's decision to draft Mr. Chubais, a youthful liberal, back into the government to oversee economic reforms.

Their resolution called his appointment a "direct challenge to social opinion in Russia."

Mr. Chubais, widely regarded as a brilliant administrator and an uncompromising reformer, is hated by the Communists for masterminding Mr. Yeltsin's successful reelection campaign last year and for his role in overseeing privatisation, in which they say state assets were sold off too cheaply.

The Duma has very limited powers under the Russian constitution, which Mr. Yeltsin drew up in 1993 after using tanks to crush the previous Soviet-era parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin's decree ordering the reshuffle did not say the government had to submit a formal resignation and the Duma has no legal right to prevent the forming of a new cabinet because the premier remains in place.

But the Communists have also threatened a no-confidence motion in the government. If voted through twice, Mr. Yeltsin would either have to dismiss the cabinet or the Duma itself.

Given Russia's deep-seated economic and social problems, a fresh election might return an even less cooperative parliament.

Trade unions, backed by the Communists, are planning a nationwide day of strikes on March 27 to protest against long delays in the payment of wages and pensions. Mr. Chernomyrdin has blamed tax dodgers for the delays.

The United States has welcomed Mr. Yeltsin's changes, saying they showed that Mr. Yeltsin was back in control and determined to press on with reforms after many months' absence from the Kremlin due to heart problems and pneumonia.

"The fact that he has retained Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and first Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais means one thing — Russia continues to be headed in a reform direction," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns Tuesday.

## Suharto: No room for dissent

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto said there was no room for political dissent in Indonesia and that critics of his government did not understand the country's political system, the Jakarta Post newspaper reported Wednesday.

"There are people who analyse our 1945 constitution using a foreign frame of mind," Mr. Suharto told a meeting of senior government officials Tuesday.

Mr. Suharto said critics did not understand the role of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), the majority of whose members are appointed, which formally elects the president every five years and approves the broad guidelines of state policy.

"The assembly elects a figure it believes is capable of carrying out prepared guidelines of state policy. This implies there should be no opposition to any policy as they have been approved by representatives of

all the people," he said.

The 1,000-member MPR consists of the 500-member House of Representatives (DPR) and 500 representatives from various government and community bodies appointed by the president.

The MPR has reelected Mr. Suharto five straight times since he was first chosen as president by the body in 1968. The former army general first took power after the military crushed an attempted coup in September 1965 blamed on the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI).

Mr. Suharto also warned that the globalisation of information and economic activity was, in some ways, posing a "tremendous threat" to the nation's unity.

"The free flow of global information has brought people in all countries closer to those in others. This enables people to receive foreign values that can erode their sense of nation-

alism," he said.

"So extreme is the impact of foreign influences in some people they no longer care about maintaining their nation's unity," he added.

Mr. Suharto's comments came amid a continuing crackdown on dissent which foreign diplomats say was probably ordered by Mr. Suharto, who recently threatened to "clobber" anyone who tried to unseat him by unconstitutional means.

Three leaders of the unrecognised United Democratic Party of Indonesia (PUDI), including its chairman, sacked legislator Sri Bintang Pamungkas, were detained last week on subversion charges which carry the maximum penalty of death.

PUDI had urged people to boycott the May general election. Mr. Bintang had also declared Mr. Suharto's likely reelection as president by a new MPR in March 1998.



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## Netanyahu misses the point

THE RESPONSE of Benjamin Netanyahu to His Majesty King Hussein's strong message to the Israeli prime minister is a gimmick in politicking that might satisfy extremists in his government but not those who seek genuine peace.

Mr. Netanyahu can go on enumerating the achievements of his administration as opposed to those of his Labour predecessors, but he can hardly convince anyone that he seeks a lasting peace. The fact that 87 Knesset members voted for the Hebron agreement as opposed to 61 in support of Oslo II is not an indication that the Hebron deal is a better one for peace. It could be a more suitable agreement for the Israelis since it leaves them in control of 20 per cent of the city.

What His Majesty the King was referring to, though, is not the adherence to agreements alone but the spirit by which Mr. Netanyahu approaches the whole peace process. The late Yitzhak Rabin had the courage and magnanimity in early 1995 to rescind a cabinet decision to confiscate Arab land in East Jerusalem after pleas from world leaders, but especially after a letter from the King calling on him to withdraw the decision. On the other hand, Mr. Netanyahu ignored all pleas to repel his decision to build in Jabal Abu Ghneim. The question here is: Why build in Jerusalem's Abu Ghneim at this time in the peace process? Is this not a predetermined effort to create facts in the ground before the final status talks on Jerusalem begin?

Peace, Mr. Netanyahu should realise, is not measured in terms of numbers or percentages, but in intentions, deeds and actions. The matter the King was addressing in his letter to the Israeli leader does not only involve fulfilling agreements but the absence of goodwill on the part of the Israeli prime minister.

It could be true that the Netanyahu government is allowing more Palestinians to work in Israel. But this is not what the Palestinians aspire to at the end of the road. They want free and unimpeded movement to their imports and exports. They want their own airport and seaport to enable them to move freely and move their goods speedily. The Palestinians want to lay down the infrastructure for their own state, a state that Mr. Netanyahu knows very well is coming whether he likes it or not. To humiliate the Palestinians before giving them their God-given right does not augur well for the future of relations between Palestine and Israel.

What the King wanted from the prime minister was not a checklist of what his government did for peace. The King was urging him to show courage not fear, to project a vision of tolerance not narrow-mindedness and to be magnanimous not mean.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i warned Israel that violence can only breed violence and that occupation can only create resistance and arrogance can invite further tension. Sultan Hatab said Benjamin Netanyahu's behaviour can only help ruin the peace process and his arrogant and aggressive attitude can only provoke anti-Israeli actions in the whole region. The Jordanian people do not trust Netanyahu who acts just the opposite of his promises about peace, who tries to humiliate the Arabs, who conspires behind the Palestinians' backs, who does not respect peace accords and who persists on his own actions and the building of Jewish settlements on Arab lands, said the writer. Jordan and the Palestinians have been keen on the peace process and were keen on giving the peace process a chance, but Netanyahu seems to be blinded by arrogance and malice against the Arabs, to be drunk with the feeling of military power and not to give any regard to any peace agreement, continued the writer. He asked how Netanyahu can attain the peace which he has been bragging about at a time when he does not respect the simple and basic elements of peace, and how can this man ever feel assured of peace with the Arabs countries around Israel if he does not recognise the rights of the Palestinians in their own homeland. The writer said that peace requires the involvement of wise and sensible leaders, but not malicious and arrogant persons bent on humiliating others.

ATTACKING THE U.S. for using the veto to abort a U.N. Security Council resolution that would have condemned Israel's illegal policies, a writer for Al Aswaq said that Washington has never supported U.N. resolutions that favour Arab rights. Rashid Hassan said the U.S. insists to be a mediator between the Arabs and Israel and, at the same time, insists on keeping it status as an adversary of the Arabs and the Palestinians. By resorting to the use of veto against the Security Council resolution, the U.S. has displayed its real position which is opposed to the international legitimacy and which encourages Israel and Netanyahu to pursue their criminal actions against the Palestinians, said the writer. No doubt that this American attitude has invited criticism by astonished European leaders and a hostile stand on the part of the Arab masses, said the writer who warned that such practices on the part of Israel and continued U.S. backing for the Israeli aggressive actions can only lead the Middle East to explosion and conflict.

## The View from Academia

## 'There can be no real peace between the Arabs and the Israelis unless they respect each other'

THE MIDDLE East peace process, thanks (or should we say no thanks?) to the present Israeli government, is passing through, well, a hellish, nightmarish and nasty phase. While peace was fast becoming a reality not long ago, we now seem to be further than ever from a satisfactory settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the promise of a happy, prosperous Middle East for all.

Since the advent of the present Israeli government and as a direct result of the long series of abuses which it has systematically and mercilessly inflicted on the already delicate, perhaps even embryonic, peace process, serious doubt about the future of peace has been mounting steadily. Even the staunch advocates of peace (the faithful, the loyal, the optimistic, the converted) have started to be sceptical and to lose faith. The peace process is in real danger.

At present, the Israeli government is more insensitive, selfish, intransigent and disrespectful of others (Palestinians, Arabs, the international community, etc.) than it has been since the launching of the peace process; Palestinian frustration, anger and disillusionment (even) with the peace process (as a result of the Israeli practices) have reached a climax and led to the resignation en masse of the Palestinian negotiators; Israel's relations with its Arab peace partners are at their worst; peace with Lebanon and Syria seems almost unthinkable; the momentum of the U.S. involvement and pressure on Israel is at its blandest and lowest, and so on. Things look pretty bad.

In addition to all this (which seems obvious enough), the following points need to be stressed to show how real the deterioration of the peace process is and how seriously damaging the position of the Israeli government has become:

1. Before the launching of the Middle East peace process in Madrid and since — up until the inauspicious advent of the present Israeli government, that is — much mutual (Arab-Israeli) confidence has been built. This has always seemed necessary. There can be no peace, laymen as well as experts seem to agree, unless and until mutual confidence between the Arabs and the Israelis is established. Not only do psychological barriers have to be overcome (and many have been) and suspicion and mistrust eliminated (and much has been), but each side (especially the Arab side) needs to be assured that the other is serious about the establishment of peace and means business.

One could live with delays (and Israel has been delaying), the breaking of deadlines (and Israel has been breaking deadlines), the difficulty of agreeing on points and measures (and Israel has been making it difficult to agree) and even procrastination (and Israel has been procrastinating) as long as one has the confidence and the trust in the sincerity and seriousness of the other side's commitment and pursuit of peace.

The Arab side, for obvious reasons, is now seriously

questioning Israel's sincerity and seriousness. More importantly, the confidence which has been built is fast being (if it has not totally been) destroyed by the present Israeli government. This message is eloquently expressed in His Majesty King Hussein's important letter to the Israeli Prime Minister, delivered last Sunday, and the remarks of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, broadcast on Jordan Television Tuesday. They are also neatly embodied in Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti's words spoken in front of the visiting Israeli Defence Minister Tuesday: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

A growing majority in Palestine, the Arab World and the international community is beginning (thanks to the present Israeli government's tactless actions) is fast losing faith in the materialisation of justice in the Middle East.

2. There can never be real peace without mutual respect and without a true sense of partnership. With the increase in the momentum of the peace process and the signing, by Israel, of the peace treaties with the Palestinians and Jordan, there has emerged between the Arabs and Israelis a growing mutual respect and understanding.

In the past, there was a great deal of misunderstanding, negative pride and prejudice. Israel, as an occupier, a superior military power, and outsider to the Middle East was, in its view of the Palestinian and the Arab, reductive, condescending, chauvinist and racist. In turn, the Arab World, in viewing Israel as the occupier and the enemy, failed to understand the complexity and dynamism of the Israeli society and culture.

The peace process brought the two sides closer to an adequate understanding and to an equitable partnership: first between Egypt and Israel, then between Jordan and Israel and, finally, between the Palestinians and Israel (with the hope that the Syrians and the Lebanese will follow suit). Attitudes, conceptions, psyches, images, thoughts and sentiments were noticeably improving on both sides of the divide. Up until the advent of the present Israeli government, that is.

If Netanyahu has succeeded well in anything, it is in destroying the understanding and the positive attitudes that have emerged. His tone and approach are old fashioned. They were the tone and approach that were dominant throughout the dark, gloomy years of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He cannot make peace with your Arab neighbours if he fails to understand and respect the valuable gestures they have made, the courageous steps they have taken and the noble thoughts they harbour toward peace.

And he cannot have peace with his neighbours and partners unless and until he treats them as equal neighbours and partners.

There can be no real peace between the Arabs and the Israelis unless and until they respect each other culturally, ethnically, racially, theologically, politically, economically, etc. The tone of the present Israeli government is chauvinist, racist, reductive and condescending. It has got to

change.

3. More troubling than all of this and since (particularly) the advent of the present Israeli government, a serious rift has occurred within the so-called peace camp. Once upon a time, (not long ago) when the peace process was in full swing (the good old days), the Middle East was dichotomised into the supporters of peace and the enemies of peace. Even though the dichotomy was somewhat upsetting (one wanted all to believe in peace and work for its realisation), it was apparent that the number of the supporters of peace (and the peace enthusiasts) far outweighed that of the sceptics, the cynics and enemies of peace.

More importantly, there was a strong sense of solidarity among the members of the peace camp on the Israeli and Arab sides (among the leaders and governments, as well as the people). There was a feeling, due to this solidarity, that the threat to peace was not a serious threat as long as the sceptics, the cynics and the saboteurs of peace were outsiders. External threats can be dealt with successfully as long as they are external.

Today, the threat to peace is from within the camp itself. Netanyahu is guilty of many things. As obvious from His Majesty's revealing letter, Netanyahu appears to have betrayed the cause of peace and has not only left his partners in the lurch but is actually working against them. The questions that have to be posed to the Israeli premier are: "To what camp do you belong? Are you with those who have been working for the destruction of the peace camp? Are you the enemy in disguise?" No matter how one answers these questions, the fact remains that solidarity among the members of the peace camp (which was once so real and firm) appears now to be illusive, fake and vulnerable. Thanks to the present Israeli government, there is a real rift (a chasm, a wide pit) inside the peace camp. Netanyahu appears to be guilty of sabotage.

What is to be done? The Arab World is, to an extent, doing what it should, and can, be doing. It is standing up firm to the present Israeli government and telling it to its face that it is endangering, obstructing and destroying the peace process. This is apparent in the declarations of the various Arab countries, the Palestinian statements (and the temporary withdrawal of the Palestinian negotiators from the talks), the statements by the Jordanian Parliament, the prime minister, the Crown Prince and the letter of His Majesty the King. The international community has done its share in the condemnation.

It remains for the U.S. (in the aftermath of the upsetting — shall we say shameful? — veto) to redeem itself by some convincing steps in the direction of curbing Netanyahu's arrogance and rebellion. It also remains for the present Israeli government to wake up and seek the path of righteousness again. It is never too late for it to repent and seek forgiveness and admission to the fellowship of humanity and peace.

## LETTERS

## Reality behind obsolete data

To the Editor:

IN RESPONSE to Ziad Salam's letter "Latin America's misery" (Jordan Times, March 5, 1996), I would like to present a clearer and more accurate perspective of modern Latin America.

Mr. Salam paints a picture of an agonising reality for Latin America, but his argument is based on unfocused generalisations extracted from obsolete data and statistics. In contrast to Mr. Salam's portrait, today's Latin America is a thriving region which continues to grow in influence and prosperity. Latin Americans have shed the burden of totalitarian regimes, and today there is not a single dictatorship in the region. Indeed, democracy and human rights are thriving throughout Latin America, and the era of military regimes has been consigned to the past. The recent events in Ecuador attest to this fact. Moreover, countries such as Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala have resolved bloody internal conflicts and are now building a better future for their citizens.

In the economic arena, ever-greater numbers of Latin Americans are prospering, while the social safety net is strengthened to safeguard those at the lower end of the socio-economic spectrum. While even a cursory look at the record of regional powers such as Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil is enough to rebut Mr. Salam's biased allegations, the Republic of Chile has enjoyed a remarkable success story which deserves special attention.

The Chilean economy's main strength is its constant and vigorous expansion over the past ten years. Between 1987 and 1994, the economy grew at an average rate of 6.9 per cent annually (10.4 per cent in 1994). During that same period, the global economy averaged a growth rate of only 2.7 per cent. Developing economies, including the fast-growing countries of Asia, grew by 5.1 per cent.

Chile's impressive growth rate has been reflected in high levels of saving and investment. During 1993-94, a record level of saving was achieved, reaching over 25 per cent of the GDP in 1994, while investment was over 26 per cent of the GDP in both years. Unemployment in Chile was only 5.5 per cent in 1994, edging upward slightly to 6.1 per cent in 1995. At the same time, inflation plummeted to a 34-year low of 8.9 per cent in 1994. Chile's success in fighting inflation is due to the monetary authorities' belt-tightening policies, which have brought inflation for non-transferable goods down from around 30 per cent in early 1990 to less than 10 per cent at present. Inflation for transferable goods, meanwhile, is under six per cent.

Another great strength of Chile's economy is its orientation towards promoting exports. Chilean exports, which are diversified in terms of both products and markets, grew in volume and value during 1994. In the first quarter of 1995, Chile built up a surplus in its balance of trade even bigger than what was achieved in the previous year.

Chile is a confident and rapidly progressing country which ranks among the 22 most competitive economies in the world. It has a strong presence in markets worldwide, flourishing trade with the countries of the Pacific Rim, and numerous excellent opportunities to offer for investment. Moreover, Chile is largely free of growth-strangling administrative corruption. Most importantly, poverty in Chile is in real regression, thanks to the country's strong economic growth, linked to a comprehensive social safety net.

Mr. Salam's letter points to an enormous lack of understanding about Latin America which exists in the Middle East. Imprecise information and unfounded generalisations continue to distract from the reality of a continent which is

rich in both natural and human resources. Latin America today is making great strides in the pursuit of vigorous and equitable economic development, while authentic representative democracy and human rights are flourishing at last.

I hope that this letter helps dispel the misunderstanding of Latin America and that it serves as an invitation for those who wish to know the reality of Latin America to rely on more reliable sources.

Jorge Iglesias,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Chile,  
Amman.

## Need to help children

To the Editor:

WE EXPERIENCE problems and disappointments in our beloved Jordan, as others do everywhere in the world. I believe that acknowledging problems is a first step towards their solution.

Within a general process to promote and support human rights in Jordan, the media started tackling issues once considered taboos. Child abuse is one of the subjects being addressed by our media, which highly impressed and motivated Jordanians to do more to alleviate the sufferings of the most helpless creatures.

The latest TV programme on mistreatment of children, however, despite its being another reminder of one of our most painful social diseases, did not convey the intended message, at least to some Jordanians, including myself, especially when not everybody involved reflected his or her attitude.

Still the report urged me to react, especially when I already knew studies had been conducted on the Al Hussein Welfare Institute by Swedish and Jordanian experts.

To my surprise, I have been informed that the last visit to this institute by the Swedish expert, who most probably was accompanied by a Jordanian, was made in October 1996 and "could not find anything that was remarkable." This expert has written a report with the title "The process of change", including a video on this institute.

I just wonder why such relevant literature, whether negative or positive, was not utilised by those preparing the programme. Doesn't such a study reflect the cooperation between the Ministry of Social Development and qualified partners to solve a problem which, somehow, the ministry admits exists? Or does this situation pinpoint to another case of failed concerted efforts, which have been filed and shelved with no action or follow up?

Although our society has irresponsible citizens, regarding children, it is also honoured with the existence of hard-working, anonymous people who are doing excellent jobs for our cherished children in the less privileged areas as elsewhere.

Credit should be given to those whose contributions would have better benefited our society if their voices were better heard and their sincere enthusiasm and initiatives appreciated rather than discouraged.

Are we really facing the problem of lack of resources or, in fact, misuse or even negligence of the available ones? Do we need to address only the case of the 187 children, or seize this opportunity, instead, to solve a problem which involves all helpless, dependent members of this society? That could be done by creating an independent agency with fully dedicated staff to address all issues related to all forms of child abuse while closely cooperating and coordi-

nating with the concerned parties within the executive and legislative authorities to ensure the issuing of necessary laws and their implementation in order to prevent and punish all kinds of child abuse in the country.

Madline Manuel Mentzhaopain,  
Amman 11941.

## One veto too many

To the Editor:

WE WERE appalled last week by the decision of the U.S. government to veto the Security Council resolution demanding the halt of Israeli settlements in the Jerusalem area. But the veto should have come as no surprise to anyone with a slight awareness of the forces at play in the Middle East since it is merely one more evidence of the blatant transgression of the U.S. in face of any just settlement while the Israelis continue their utter and flagrant abuses of the Palestinians.

The Israeli-U.S. recalcitrant alliance is consistent and uniform as the former sets to further destroy the Palestinians in their own land and the latter is toiling to rally the governments of the world behind it in consent, taking every step to sustain "the qualitative edge of Israel over its neighbours," according to president Clinton.

As the world watches with apathetic indignation, Israel breaches its agreements with the Palestinians in all directions, confiscating more land, building new colonial settlements and threatening the very existence of the Palestinians in Jerusalem and elsewhere.

The Arabs must understand that the peace process is also imposed on Israel, with the American best interests in mind. The U.S. will not maintain the plethora of economic and military aid to Israel if the burden can rest somewhere else. With Israel's advances in technology and industry, thanks to U.S. research and support, its products can find lucrative markets in the world. The consumer-based Arab economies, especially in the Gulf, are large enough to absorb Israeli production at full capacity. This should fortify the Israeli position in the region, as an economic power and trading partner, and reduce its burden on the U.S. at a time when the deficit in the American budget is the focus of elections and political debate.

Obviously, the peace process has its benefits for the Arabs as well, in terms of regional stability, economy and reductions in military spending. But these benefits will only materialise when the Arab population comprehends them and feels their advantages, morally as much as economically.

With the absurd imperialist actions of the Israeli government at the expense of the Palestinians, the acceptance of this imposed neighbour will not be realised at the public level. Even though the governments of the Middle East are keen on normalising relations, they will eventually go only as far as the people can accept. As Israel maintains its expansionist policies in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, the long-term effects will only backfire. Eventually, the day will come when Israel sees no hope in a militant Zionist presence in a sea of indignant and subdued Arabs with a score to settle, but this could be too late.

Rami Barhouh,  
Amman.



# Weekender

Jordan Times, Thursday, March 13, 1997 **A**

## Society on the Move

### Royal connections were but short-lived speculations

When the European Union's Middle East envoy Miguel Angel Moratinos appeared at HRH Crown Prince Hassan's office last week, it was not the Spanish ambassador's visit that received the most attention from political pundits in town, but rather it was the participation of Adnan Abu Odeh in that very same meeting. The speculation was that perhaps Mr. Abu Odeh, former Royal Court chief and former ambassador to the United Nations, might be tapped for an advisory post in the Crown Prince's office. But, no sooner had that talk started, than Mr. Abu Odeh headed back to Washington, making good on his plan to return to complete his book on the "Jordanian-Palestinian Dynamic in Jordan: Origins, Evolution and Impact on the Peace Process." To recap, Mr. Abu Odeh returned to Amman last September after spending around one year at the Washington-based United States Institute of Peace where he worked on his book. When back in Jordan he was awaiting word from the Woodrow Wilson Institute on a grant he had applied for. The grant came through, and he is now back in D.C. to finish the manuscript. His meeting with the Crown Prince was meant to discuss that work.

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**EXCHANGES:** Also drawing attention via a Royal family connection was Director of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin. During His Majesty King Hussein's interview on Jordan Television's weekly show "60 Minutes," the King referred to the pioneering work of Mr. Amin in investigative reporting into cases of excessive bureaucracy, red tape, corruption and fraud in the 1970s. Appreciative of that recollection, Mr. Amin sent a message to King Hussein in thanks. In it Mr. Amin said: "Your words yesterday, Your Majesty, were the kindest and most noble, and a medal that I hold dear to my heart. . . You are the one who taught us not to bow our heads except to God Almighty."

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**TAKING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Little did the Jordanian Engineers Association realise when it took the decision to stage a sit-in early this month in front of the Prime Ministry, that the action, considered illegal by the government, would result in some rather far-reaching punitive measures. Even though the engineers put a two-month halt to their protest actions, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was firm in his warning against further sit-ins or work stoppages. So when some government engineers who had joined in the sit-in had their government-issue cars taken away from them, they suspected that they had caught the ire of some seniors. According to a government source, there was no special order issued to recall the cars of engineers in civil service, nor did the source know of any official ordering so in his/her organisation. But, sources at the Ministry of Public Works and the Amman Municipality, among others, said that not only were cars recalled, they were completely impounded, leaving our government departments with "fewer wheels," so to speak, to do the work.

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**ANOTHER STORY:** The prime domestic controversy over conditions at Al Hussein Welfare Institute spurred Minister of Social Development Hammad Abu Jamous to hold a press conference last Sunday. Although the reports on the session with the press made headlines in Arabic papers, it was spiked from the national news reports of both the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and Jordan Television and Radio. The minister told reporters that the work of the ministry is varied and voluminous, that to visit all the ministries centres and jurisdictions around the country would take a minister four years, and that the grim picture at Al Hussein Welfare Institute was the accumulation of 40 years of shortcomings. Mr. Abu Jamous, who is also a deputy from Amman's First District, asked whether two ministers should be appointed to fulfil the responsibilities of this ministry; one, he said, to tackle the traditional duties, and a second to devote himself/herself to looking after all the organisations under the ministry's realm. He also brought up the issue of the budgetary allocation made for the years 1995 and 1996, saying that in those two years JD 438,000 were spent on the Al Hussein Welfare Institute. With 187 orphans and abandoned children at the society, those funds, which do not include salaries, calculate to approximately JD 98 per child per month. According to Mr. Abu Jamous, the amount—when compared to the financial assistance Jordan's 20 per cent poor popula-



**HER MAJESTY** Queen Noor attends last week's fund-raising dinner to support the planned new home of the Royal Society of Fine Arts (RSFA). The event was held in cooperation with Courts, bankers to the British royal family since the mid-18th century. At the Queen's table (right to left) are HRH Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan, Sir Ewen Fergusson, Court's chairman and a trustee of the British National Gallery, HRH Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts and Mrs. Sarah Fergusson. (At right) Sir Ewen presents Princess Wijdan with two cheques as donations from Courts to the society. That evening the society raised JD 50,000 and received about \$20,000 in gifts from the Courts Contemporary Arts Foundation and the Courts Group. Among the 200 guests at the dinner were RSFA Board of Trustees, many friends of the arts, members of the diplomatic corps and press. The event was held at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jabal Weibdeh. The building was once the home of historian and industrialist Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber and his wife Mireille, who were in attendance at the dinner and recalled fond memories of their old home.

tion receives, is rather good. But he added that when this ministry is mandated to cater to the 20 per cent poor of the nation with a budget of only JD 4.4 million, the task is difficult.

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**ACTION-REACTION:** Deputy Toujeh Faisal sparked a live television battle during her visit to Dubai last week. While participating in a discussion along with an Egyptian woman professor, Ms. Faisal was reported to have made some assertive comments about the topic of women and Islam, to which her counterpart participant took grievous offence and stormed off the show. And also while in Dubai, it appears Ms. Faisal was sent a facsimile copy of the mock advertisement placed in the Jordan Times two weeks ago, which unfortunately was taken seriously by some readers. She, too, took the ad as genuine and wrote to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti that the J.T. should be taken to court for its "conspiracy with the enemy against this country and the [Arab] nation." J.T. efforts to reach Ms. Faisal for comment on both incidents were unsuccessful. She was preoccupied in Parliament where another conflict had flared up.

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**IT'S MUDSLINGING TIME:** This time it was a tiff between Deputies Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh (Irbid) and Ahmad Kasasbeh (Karak) with a stinging exchange of words and accusations of bribery. The two deputies had quarrelled during a committee debate on amending a draft law concerning the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation. It all started when Mr. Rawabdeh came up with the idea that one of the amendment's articles should include a particular phraseology on the Great Arab Revolt. But when his suggestion was ignored and the committee endorsed another phraseology, Mr. Rawabdeh scolded, "the government is against the Great Arab Revolt." At that Mr. Kasasbeh objected, addressed Mr. Rawabdeh and said: "you cannot outbid us in this issue, if you have differences with the prime minister and wish to settle scores it should not take place within this committee." Mr. Rawabdeh swiped back: "You have been bribed by the government when it promoted Ay from sub district to district." (Ay is Mr. Kasasbeh's hometown in the Karak constituency.) The verbal scuffle escalated. Mr. Kasasbeh shot back, "you are the last person to talk about bribery. You should ask about the sources of your wealth — they are all bribes and corruption." By then the two deputies were threatening to seek legal recourse and prove their allegations. Needless to say, the committee meeting ended in confusion. But alas, a reconciliation. During a joint meeting of the chamber's Administrative and National Guidance committees, under the chairmanship of the Speaker Saad Hayel

#### ESTEEMED POST:

In Irbid, Yarmouk University President Marwan Kamal has been honoured by being elected president of the Amman-based Association of Arab Universities (AAU) at its 30th annual meeting. The four-year term begins Jan. 1, 1998. Dr. Kamal was originally up against five other contenders from Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan and Palestine. But they all withdrew their candidacies prior to the voting process, and thus Dr. Kamal's election was unanimous. The association was originally started in Egypt, then moved to Saudi Arabia, and has been in Amman close to 15 years. Its membership numbers more than 100 public and private Arab universities. Dr. Kamal, who received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in the U.S. and served as minister of agriculture, succeeds Ihab Ismail of Egypt. The AAU has other centres of activity in other parts of the Arab World, mainly in Egypt. Naturally the new post will bring Dr. Kamal back to Amman and therefore a successor will have to be named at Yarmouk University. But there is still plenty of time for that, and academics are hoping it will be the right choice.

Marwan Kamal

**TEAM WITH A VIEW:** The Staff Association that serves UN employees in such UN organisations as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the UN World Food Programme (WFP), and Habitat (the UN Centre For Human Settlements), has elected a new council made up of Nancy Samain as chairperson, Reema Mdanat as first vice chairperson, Reem Abu Lughod as second vice chairperson, Mahmoud Abu Ruz, as secretary, Ibtisam Dabaneh as treasurer, and Jamal Daoud as alternate. Other UN agencies have their own associa-



tions. As a staff organisation for an international non-governmental organisation the strength of such an organisation is significant. In addition it operates under the umbrella of UN regulations and privileges and it has the support of the UN resident coordinator. While the main objective of the association is to defend the rights and privileges of UN staff in Jordan, in terms of pay scales, allowances and benefits, the staff council sees its interests extending into the Jordanian community proper. The council would like to invigorate interaction between the community and the UN agencies in a manner that would achieve the mutual goals of host country and the agencies, particularly in areas of sustained development, housing and urban development and food security. Their field trips could include visits to media organisations, academic institutions, and cultural societies around the country, so you might want to prepare.

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**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Over at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the one-year-old General Corporation for Environment Protection underwent change in its top post. Saleh Shar'e, an agricultural and forestation engineer who was made director general of the corporation last year, has retired. In his stead, but as acting director general, is Faris Jneidi, a civil engineer and graduate of California State University. In 1980, the corporation was only a department of the ministry. It took the enactment of the Environment Law in 1995 to upgrade the department into a corporation. Its responsibility is to manage UN-funded projects which deal with water, pollution, and desertification, for example. The corporation counts around 70 professionals and administrative staff. Some of its current projects are on climate change and ozone depletion.

Jennifer Hamarnesh

## Marriages with few strings stir Saudi passions

By Michael Georgy  
Reuter

DUBAI — Marriage broker Fahd Suleiman makes the kind of offer that unleashes fury among women and arouses intrigue in men in austere Saudi Arabia, where sex outside marriage is high on a long list of taboos. His fax offers men trapped in unhappy marriages an easy and safe escape — "zawaaj al-misyar," or a "marriage in passing." Callers who dial the five telephone numbers in Saudi Arabia listed on the fax get through to a taped message from a woman with an alluring voice telling them to punch in a secret code to learn more. "My dear brother," says the fax, "May God help you find a wife (in passing) to

compensate you for your troubled life. Know that the broker charges these prices. Five thousand riyals for a virgin. Three thousand riyals for a non-virgin." Islamic Sharia Law allows a man to have up to four wives at any one time on condition that they are given equal treatment — from identical homes to conjugal visits. But under an Al Misyar contract, which falls under the Sharia Law umbrella that rules Saudi Arabia, the man benefits from fewer financial commitments, is not obliged to live with his wife and he sets the conditions for marriage. "He can pass by at any time, in the morning, afternoon or evening. And he does not have to stay over," Sheikh Mohammad Mu'bi,

a cleric, told Reuters. Marriages in passing incense female critics such conditions have enraged female critics of Al Misyar and triggered a war of words in the pages of Saudi newspapers. "This is just like having a legalised mistress," said Intissar Al Ageel, a female columnist who has lambasted Al Misyar pacts as an insult to the institution of marriage. "This is terrible. They are deceiving women. It's like a man buying cows and sheep or watermelons," she said by telephone from her home in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah. Soon after she published her opinions, Ms. Ageel was bombarded with hate-mail and insulting faxes. "You cannot believe what

I went through. They sent me faxes saying 'you are an old woman' and 'we heard you had plastic surgery and you don't read the Koran.' They are out of their minds. I can be very tough when I believe in something," she said. Apparently, Ms. Ageel was not tough enough. Newspapers stopped printing her stories. She has yet to gain official permission to publish a book in the kingdom that compiles her anti-Misyar editorials — even though they have already been published in newspapers. As the days of easy oil money in Saudi Arabia have waned and supporting more than one family has become prohibitively expensive for men, Al-Misyar pacts have become more popular.

There are no signs that the country is becoming any less conservative. Women are banned from driving and unmarried couples who mix in public risk angering the mutawaheen, stern-faced religious police armed with thin wooden canes. **Appeal for divorcees, spinsters and widows** While outspoken critics like Ms. Ageel blast the Al Misyar pact, it has a certain appeal for divorcees, spinsters and widows who find an ordinary marriage hard to come by or simply don't want a full-fledged commitment. Advocates say the pact offers a practical solution for a man who grows attracted to a woman but

wants satisfaction within the confines of Islamic Law in one of the most conservative countries in the Muslim World. Islamic Law imposes the death sentence on adulterers, but the crime is very hard to prove. In Saudi Arabia, extra-marital affairs are usually punishable by flogging. "In the West, if a man gets attached to a woman he can have a girlfriend. But this is forbidden in our traditional society. This type of marriage solves the problem," Abdullah Abu Al-Samh, a writer who entered the editorial battle, said. **Clerics join the controversy** The issue became so con-

troversial that the fiery editorials virtually disappeared from the state-controlled press. "The government got nervous," said one columnist. "It was making too much social noise." As tales of marriage brokers luring thousands of Saudis spread in the kingdom, clerics warned that the Al Misyar arrangement was being abused. Sheikh Mohammad Mu'bi said the pact was attractive to some women with a ticking biological clock, for instance, who were unable to land conventional marriages. "Some women do this because it's the only way they can have a baby," he said. "We are not attacking the practice itself, but its negative sides. Some men

do this just out of lust. Others do it just to marry for one month or even one week and then they never go back." Those types of scenarios did not seem to scare one woman, who goes by the name Mona, away from an Al Misyar marriage. After escaping an arranged marriage with her first husband, and failing at another relationship, she settled for Al Misyar with a married man who has three children. "He said the condition for our marriage was that his wife would not know," said Mona. "I am happier now. We travel together and he visits twice a week. But I would like to see more of him," she added.

# Are you bilingual?

By Jean-Claude Elias

ONE OF the reasons of Microsoft's undeniable success in capturing the world software market for personal computers is the care the company has taken to respond to the needs of non-English speaking users. It may seem an obvious, almost trivial matter, but adapting a piece of software, originally designed in English, to other languages is not a task to be taken lightly. Especially if the targetted language doesn't use the Latin alphabet — like Arabic for instance.

It usually takes a few months after the release of a first English product to have its Arabic equivalent. Microsoft operating systems, namely Windows 3.1 and 95, and the company's Office Suite (Word, Excel, Power Point and Access programmes) are available in Arabic. More precisely in a bilingual, Arabic/English environment. The bilingual nature of the system is particularly interesting for those who need to mix both languages in the same document. What clearly looks as an advantage presents however some inconvenience.

A bilingual system is naturally a bigger one in terms of programmes and files size. Hence the need for more memory, disk space and processing power to obtain the same performance as an English-only similar product. This weakness, which used to cause a noticeable slowdown in the older Windows 3.1 seems to have much less effect under the newer Windows 95. Indeed, for having used both operating systems and in both cases (English-only and Arabic-English) I can say that Windows 95 appears equally fast whether in its monolingual or bilingual versions. This may be due to the high processing power of the Pentium machines on which I made the comparison and also to the fact that Windows 95 is a true 32-bit system.

Speed and performance aside, not all programmes are designed to work well under an Arabic-English system. Some third party software like Adobe PageMaker for instance (the best selling desktop publishing programme) may display meaningless characters on the screen in some

## chip talk



cases, instead of the text one expects to see. This is due to the fact that the internal codes normally assigned to these characters have been reserved to Arabic characters, something the designers of PageMakers didn't take, or couldn't have taken into consideration. Some programmes may even cause the computer to freeze, to stop working, while others will simply be impossible to install or to start under a bilingual system. This is often the case with specialised software like digital music editing software or highly technical, engineering packages.

If one intends to use any of the above special software products, checking for their proper functioning under Arabic-English Windows is a wise thing to do before buying them. Otherwise going back to English-only Windows remains a viable solution.

It is worth mentioning the laudable efforts of some Jordanian software specialists who in recent years have successfully undertaken the "Arabisation" or specialised software otherwise designed for English-only application. AutoCad, the computer-aided design programme, for example, was Arabised in Jordan and now allows engineers to use it very efficiently under bilingual Windows. Unfortunately the lack of acceptable financial reward or even the absence of some stimulating recognition — except among their peers — is deterring most specialists from carrying their research effort further.

# A sober assertion of being

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

CITIES CHANGE people. The entertainer in the film Evita, Magali, declared this when he warned Eva that the city, Buenos Aires, "is hungry and cold, can't be controlled, it is mad. Those who are fools are swallowed up whole, and those who are not become what they should not become, changed, in short, they go bad."

It is very interesting to note how he could have been describing the way night-time culture was shaping up here, in Amman, where kids indulging in what our capital has to offer are either those with plenty of money to spend, those whose parents care very little about where they spend the night, or with whom, and those eager to be seen around foreigners in order to boost their image among their peers. Acts which are hardly worth the pain they bring.

All of these things are neither radical nor special because many of us travel abroad and see how others live their lives to the full: Going out to the movies, for a meal, for a cup of coffee, to an exhibition, etc. And even though the obscenities and the drunkenness people witness abroad are at first glance perceived to be accepted norms of behaviour in some countries, one encounters a growing resistance to them in these same countries and in our overwhelmingly conservative society of four million people. Awareness remains an important element in all this.

To grasp the big picture here, some of the things that we need to be aware of have to do with the kind of clients that our night spots seem to be increasingly catering for. Air stewardesses, tourists, foreigners residing amongst us and "Jordanians who like to pretend they are not in Jordan" are the sort of people we are primarily talking about. When out at night, many of them make themselves so much at home that they enjoy and indulge in exposing their private parts in front of others whenever they feel they need to. The people who manage the night spots where such things happen duly have them removed of the premises for having done this.

But this is absolutely of no value whatsoever because they simply let them back in the following day as if nothing had happened. At the end of the day, neither party has any respect for the values, the morals, and the culture of this country.

One other thing which also happens because of lack of a decent managerial team is the serving of alcohol to customers who are under 18-years-old. This is something which would never be allowed to take place in the very West that we look towards for justification for what some night spots in Amman get up to.



All this happens in our city and most of us are aware of it, even if we are not ready to openly talk about it. But if we care enough about our future and the future of our children, we cannot continue to ignore these realities in the hope that they will disappear. We need heroes that will take care of the phenomenon of clubs abusing their licences. Heroes who will champion our cause against night-time malice.

Of course, we all have a right to spend quality leisure time with people we care about, and this we can do in ways that are in line with the norms, morals, and values that our society demands that we abide by.

All this is acceptable so long as the freedom of some does not infringe upon the freedom of others.

We are totally for opening up to the West, and ideas from the West. And while we can only welcome those people who will soon be manufacturing blue jeans in Jordan, we cannot condone the things that in the long term are not in our favour, nor in favour of the well-being of our children.

We need to make sure that our children know exactly who they are as we all steadily approach the next millennium. We should not confuse them with ideas about who others think they are today, and whether a night out in a pub or a bar can bring them closer to that which is modern and hip.

We need to come out and say this because just as there will be people against this line of thought, there will certainly be far more people who are in favour of curbing the leeway that the night spots of Amman seem to be taking advantage of to further nothing more than their money-making ventures at the expense of the well-being of the nation.

I think that if this is what we really want, all of us, to have a right to enjoy a night-life free from the cancerous influence of screams, fights, screeching cars and the stink of alcohol in the crushed remains of cars on the side of our roads, then we should do something about it.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, March 13, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran	7:30	News Headlines
2:08	Ovide & The Gang	7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
2:30	Raw Toonage	8:00	World Echo (Doc.)
2:45	Curiosity Show	8:30	Side Effects
3:00	They Came From Outer Space	9:10	Tycoons (Doc.)
4:00	N.B.A. Basketball	10:00	News In English
5:00	Out Of This World	10:25	Hot Shots
5:30	French Programmes	11:15	Sisters
7:30	News Headlines		
7:35	Parenthood		
8:00	Cinema, Cinema, Cinema		
8:30	The American Chart Show		
9:10	Kung Fu-The Legend Continues		
10:00	News In English		
10:25	Feature Film — Remembrance		
	Starring: Angie Dickinson & Eva La Rue		

Monday, March 17, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	The Mask	2:05	Flintstones
2:30	Flintstones	2:30	Captain Planet (Cartoon)
3:00	See How They Grow	3:00	French Programmes
3:15	French Programme	4:00	Nature's Inventions
4:00	Crystal Maze	4:15	Deep Water Haven
5:00	News Flash	4:50	A Programme For Children
5:10	Science & Space Encyclopedia	5:00	Extra Dimensions (Doc.)
5:30	French Programmes	6:00	French Programmes
7:30	News Headlines	7:30	News Headlines
7:35	America's Funniest Home Videos	7:35	Roseanne
8:00	The Health Show	8:00	Discover Magazine (Doc.)
8:30	Hawkeye	8:30	Murder She Wrote
9:10	Frontline (Doc.)	9:10	Highlander
10:00	News In English	10:00	News In English
10:25	Feature Film — Romance Theatre	10:25	Under Suspicion
	"Lights, Cameras, Action, Love"	11:00	Hunter
	Starring: Gary Hudson & Laura Johnson		

Saturday, March 15, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran	7:30	News Headlines
2:05	Adventures of Mickey & Donald	7:35	Murphy Brown
2:30	Moomins (Cartoon)	8:00	Superstars Of Action (Bruce Willis)
3:00	French Programme	8:30	Encounter
4:00	Gillette (Sports)	9:10	The Nature of Things
4:30	Innovation (Doc.)	10:00	News In English
5:00	Tilt 231/2	10:25	Snowy River
5:25	Blue Heelers	12:00	Mission Impossible
6:00	French Programme		
7:30	News Headlines		
7:35	Hanging With Mr. Cooper		
8:00	Magazine - 01 (Doc.)		
8:30	Prism		
9:10	Time Trax		
10:00	News In English		
10:25	Feature Film — The Blue Lightning		
	Starring: Sam Elliot & Rebecca Gilling		

Sunday, March 16, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
2:08	Jonny Quest (Cartoon)	2:08	Adventures On Rainbow Pond
2:30	Problem Child (Cartoon)	2:30	Flintstones
3:00	French Programme	3:00	French Programme
4:00	Global Family (Doc.)	4:00	America's Funniest People
4:25	Energy Express	4:25	Escape From Jupiter
4:50	Our World, Their World	4:50	Challenge (Doc.)
5:15	All Our Children	5:15	Border Town
6:00	French Programmes	6:00	French Programmes
		7:30	News Headlines
		7:35	Grace Under Fire
		8:00	Documentary
		8:30	Challenges
		9:10	Spencer For Hire
		10:00	News In English
		10:25	Cobra
		11:00	Hart To Hart

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- \*\* Let me feel your pulse.  
Da'nee aqees nabbak.
- \*\* Take my temperature, please.  
Khoz darajet hararati, min fadlek.
- \*\* Your pulse is a little fast.  
Nabdoka saree qalilan.
- \*\* Let me examine your nose, mouth, ears and throat.  
Da'nee afhuss anfak, famak, othonaik wa-halqaq.
- \*\* Your tongue's inflamed.  
Lisanoka multahib.
- \*\* Take a deep breath.  
Khoz nafasan ameeqan.
- \*\* Your blood pressure is so high.  
Daghtu damik murtafi' jiddan.
- \*\* You suffer from digestion.  
Innaka tu'aani min soo'el el-hadm.
- \*\* You have a light cold.  
Indak bard khafif.
- \*\* Abstain from smoking and alcoholic drinks.  
Intani' an at-tadkheen wal'mashroobat ar-ruhiya.
- \*\* Rest assured, it is not dangerous.  
It'ma'in. Laysa fil-amr khutoorah.
- \*\* Wish you good health.  
Atamanna laka sih'hatan jayyeda.

### JOKES

- Teacher: "What's your favourite subject?"  
Jamal: "Sociology."  
Teacher: "Yours."  
Kamal: "Astronomy."  
Teacher: "Yours."  
Nidal: "Biology."  
Teacher: "Yours."  
Sameh: "Apology."
- Customer: "Please, fetch me another glass of water."  
Waiter: "But excuse me, sir. I haven't seen a person drinking twenty-two glasses of water at a time."  
Customer: "Who the hell is drinking. Don't you see my chair is on fire!"
- John: "How's your business these days?"  
Samuel: "Dullest ever. Even the regular non-payers have stopped buying."

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

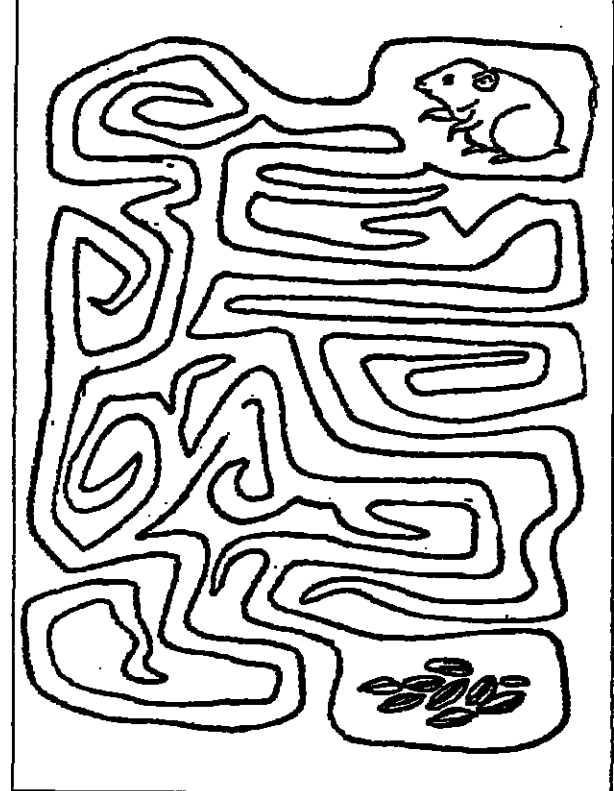
- Which of the following birds are extinct? — thea, dodo, great auk, kiwi, albatross, ibis, cassowary, quetzal, moa, aepyornis.
- Arrange the following in the order of their length of life: — salmon, pike, candytuft, man, horse, cattle, dog, cat, baobab tree, goose.
- On what rivers do the capitals of the following countries stand?

Frane, Germany, USA, Eire, Italy, Canada, Iraq, Burma, Argentina, Portugal.

4. What are monkey-bread, a monkey-engine, a monkey-flower, a monkey-puzzle and a monkey-jacket?

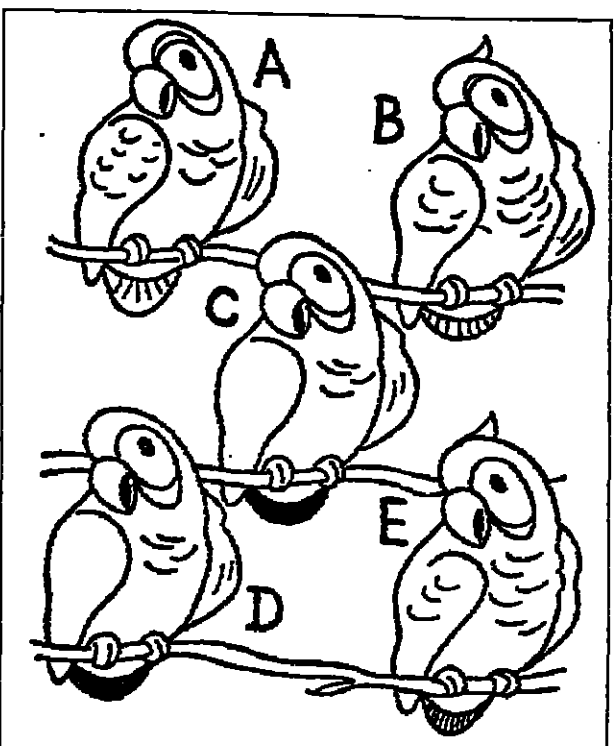
### PUZZLES

(A) WHICH WAY?



How will the hamster reach his store of food??

(B) TWIN PARROTS



Which two parrots are the same??



## RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

# Bronze sculpture-works of Mustapha Ali reveal vulnerability, sentimentality and a sense of history

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

WHEN M. FOKINE first choreographed the 1911 Paris production of Igor Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, he caused something of an inspirational stir for the manner in which he was able to imbue his marionettes with a magical fairytale-like aura. Similarly skilful productions by others, of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, for instance, likewise placed a tin soldier — and in Act II — a sugar-plum fairy on centre-stage for all to behold. These were all toys who climbed out of their boxes, slid off their shelves and engaged in musical and dance extravaganzas when their mortal human masters were fast asleep. The similar concept of the personable toy/doll can also be seen — read, rather — in Hans Christian Andersen's *Constant Tin Soldier*.

The slenderly-elegant and — at times — festive bronze figurines of renowned Syrian artist, Mustapha Ali, exude their own distinct aura of fantasy, mystery and, in some cases, melancholy. Their understated beauty is largely owed to the extent to which they convincingly appear to be the sculptor's translation of his dreams, of legends and of rhythmic prose... all, into solid tangible objects. There is nothing contrived about them; a sense of musical poetry adorns the entire exhibition.

An imposing structure, positioned to be immediately visible to the visitor upon entry to the gallery's hall, depicts a pensive-looking man contemplating the infinity of the horizon from a high vantage-point; he is actually a poet standing at a cliff's precipice, behind whom is the reassurance of a mangrove tree (albeit, a severely wind-swept one). The art-work is evocative of more than one emotion, and — though far from being possessed of aesthetic and symbolic crises in identity — a pleasant sense of tension percolates from within and beyond the bronze icon, as the various emotions compete in a state of flux for preeminence. The ensuing rivalry is as unlikely as that between two musical compositions: Richard Wagner's *Prelude to the mighty opera, Tannhäuser* — on the one hand — and Heitor Villa-Lobos's sublime *Aria of the Bachianas Brasileiras No.5* — on the other hand.

Ali was born in the breathtakingly beautiful southern coastal province of Latakya, Syria, and belongs to the



Syrian artist Mustapha Ali works on one of his creations

generation part of whose teen-years were spent in the contemporary global cultural and civic upheaval known to many as the "Sixties." The main stretch of his post-childhood youth lay in the Seventies. He was born in 1956. "As a youngster, I would go and play at a sand-hill very near my home. Often leaving my friends to play their hide-and-seek and other games. I would find myself perched atop the hill's modest plateau, fingers dug deep into the sand; feeling, moulding, getting a sense of "the form of things." It was then that the notion struck me that I was actually at my happiest when so immersed. The years that followed were to demonstrate just how lucky I was to have come to that realisation so early on in life."

For it was there, in the humble sand that he was most in his element. It was there that he "found himself" and was able to connect with something greater than he had ever known. Boarding the "wagon of discovery" in what was to be a life-journey in self-exploration, and that of other people and cultures; those still living, as well as those who have been visited by many moons since they stamped their mark in the annals of

legend.

"I started carving and sculpting as an adolescent in my coastal hometown province of Latakya, with nothing more than sand and gravel on the beach," explains Ali. "I recall a modest hill not too far from our house, made up mostly of sandy rock-clusters; we were very young. To me, virtually anything could be used as a utensil to carve: ordinary, kitchen knives, spoons, and other (even less obvious) implements. I found myself attempting to achieve shapes and themes that are typically on children's minds, such as trees and ships (the latter being a natural choice for a child raised by the coast)."

Ali, much like many artists in the Arab World, faced the usual obstacles and limitations in his artistic quest, owed to inadequate material support and sponsorship; factors that immediately exercised an influence over the size of the sculpture-works.

Accordingly, most of his initial works were rather small in size — requiring markedly lower overhead costs — as well as relatively simple technology (dictating, more or less, methods of smelting the bronze and pouring it in moulds that are inexpensive to prepare), fur-

ther keeping the budget in check. Beholding the works, one would never get the impression that any restraint has had to take place due to financial considerations, rather, just modesty at a very sophisticated level.

Ali was but thirteen when he attended art academy, where he and other aspirants were started off on a course of sculpture and drawing. They had to draw and carve Graeco-Roman items, abundant in Syria. It was an early stage in what was to gradually become his artistic career. "I do not recall having had any substantial vision then. I just had an inner pulsating urge to become a sculptor. The years went by and I just accumulated the technical know-how of the three-dimensional art; my work gradually became less and less generic, and more distinct, such that by the 4th year of my Art Diploma from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus (1979), my work started bearing some measure of resemblance to the work for which I am now known. At long last, an aesthetic style that I could truly call my own was emerging," expounds the artist.

By that time (1990), Ali had already held several solo and group exhibitions. His exhibition of about 35

bronze sculpture-works in 1988 was actually the very first all-bronze exhibition in Syria featuring a Syrian sculptor. It was to herald a new era in the Syrian art-scene, although the public was "distressingly lethargic" in accepting what they must have undoubtedly perceived as a new creative dimension... at least in the context of a fellow Syrian citizen, producing and exhibiting his work on Syrian turf.

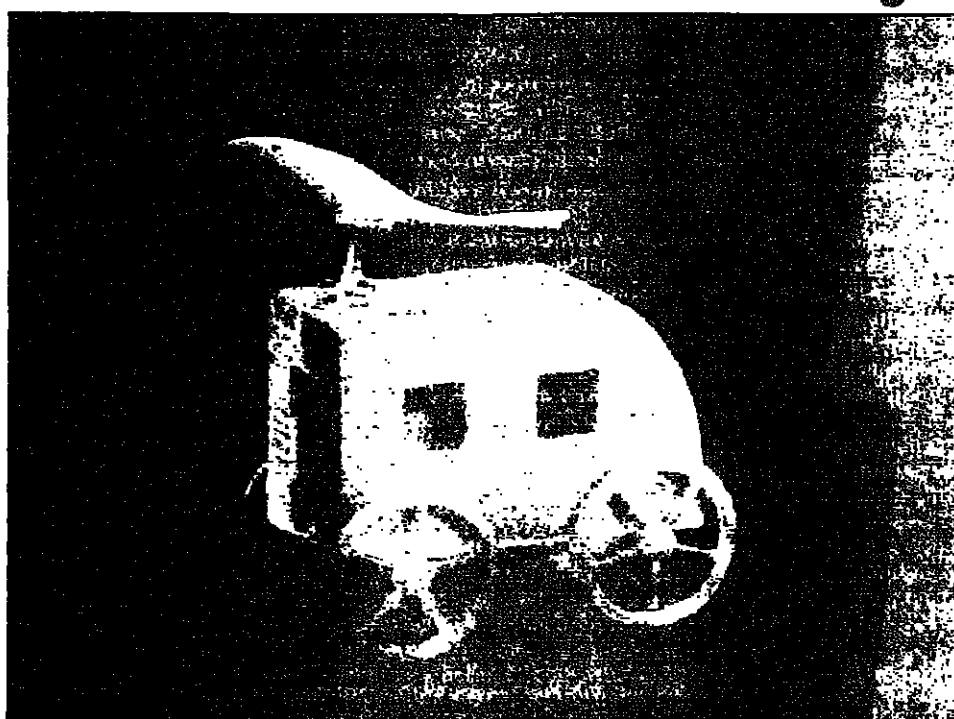
Thereafter, along with several novice-sculptors, Ali started exhibiting his work in group exhibitions that included works by his instructors at the Faculty of Fine Arts. "Ironically, however, it was just at the time that my work was beginning to register acclaim and 'pick up' that I most felt the need to head off in a different direction (or continue in the same general direction, but change surroundings). I wasn't quite sure. But I was growing more and more certain that I was being sucked into an abyss of routine that was stifling my creativity."

Oddly, public response to, and interaction with my work was steadily improving, but that soon became inconsequential; I had to be true to myself and to the prevailing moment, and so in 1991, I set off to the "Shangri-La" or "Nirvana" of marble quarries, Carrara, Italy, (once the foremost centre for fine renaissance-period marble-sculpting and also a centre for bronze-casting) where I have since been immersed in study at the Accademia del Belli Arti," says the artist.

He has now been there for about six years, with regular visits back to Damascus throughout. However, even this enchanting place — it is disclosed — must soon give way to a new venue; a time comes when one simply must "move on."

"This is essentially the crux of my life-experiences in the realms of the practical. As for the actual philosophical and inspirational matrices behind my work, my historical sources, etc., in terms of visual manifestations, it is probably safe to say that my work derives most vividly from the eastern Mediterranean cultures; predominantly those of pre-classical Greco-Roman tradition, ancient Syria and Egypt (sometimes even the cave-painting traditions of the Paleolithic age)," illuminates the artist.

With time, he developed a distinctive style of his own, drawing from ancient Pharaonic, Babylonian and Greek mythology & folk-



The Bird by Mustapha Ali

lore, as well as from the aesthetic techniques of the ancient Greeks, accounting for the slender elegance and proportions of many of the works. It is the Roman influence, however, that imbues the small and miniature figurines with a love and lust for life. Islamic influences are also evident in some of the works. All the above are amalgamated together, to various degrees and extent, but in a way that emerges — nonetheless — as the unique style of Ali. However, the innovation derives from contemporary influences, such as those of Alberto Giacometti, Max Ernst, Marino Marini, Giacomo Manzù, Emilio Greco, Wilhelm Lehmbruck, Renee Sintenis, Pierre Bonnard... among others.

This inclination to "borrow" artistic styles from far and wide is described by art historian Herbert Read as "Eclecticism," denoting an attitude in art that "permits a free choice and combination of styles other than one's own, (whereas) 'exoticism' implies that these styles are borrowed from a culture other than one's own. Even when an artist borrows from a primitive source in his own civilisation (early Greek, Romanesque, Etruscan in European art), these periods are usually remote enough to seem exotic.... If the borrowed style is thoroughly assimilated (however), its source has little aesthetic significance." (Herbert Read, *A Concise History of Modern Sculpture*).

Phoenician and Etruscan influences can also be seen in his work, as evidenced by the often elongated figures (also a feature of Iberian tomb figurines). The former

two are hypothesised to have originated in Asia Minor — or more specifically — the land that later became Northern Syria, and may have thence settled in central and northern Italy. What distinguishes the Etruscans most vividly from the Romans is the strong East Mediterranean character and the spiritual composition in the form of antiquities and ruins that they, like the Romans, bequeathed unto posterity. These, collectively, can be taken to constitute the essential background of Ali's sources. The artist concedes, however, that: "Just about the only dimension left is that which is owed to the influence of contemporary sculptors" such as those mentioned earlier.

The long and painstakingly technical process that escorts an artistic inception from the "drawing board" in the artist's mind to the stage of the "finished" object is, predictably, fraught with surprises, disappointments and triumphs. It commences with the construction — normally, from steel wire — of the conceived object's general shape, gait and stance. The rudimentary configuration, providing for the required structural integrity, is then masterfully smothered and moulded over with a special clay-mix that possesses just the right ratio of pliability to adhesivity, allowing for the wire configuration to "bear a little flesh," so to speak. The rest is really up to the artist, and what he/she has in mind in terms of the intended final aesthetic effect; what statement the artist wishes to make.

When the item is completely dry, it is coated with

a layer of wax, and then plaster, silicone (or other newer substances) are poured around it. Once dry, that becomes the mould. Obviously, the plaster is poured in such a way that once dry, it can be removed from around the original item in several pieces. The wax prevents the inner surface of the mould from sticking to the piece within.

The mould is then itself heated for a day or two, by being placed in a cocoon of special thermal sand at a specific temperature range, ensuring the complete evaporation of the wax (which would otherwise wreak havoc when the bronze itself is later cast). The intricate inner surface of the plaster-mould is then "finished off" and imperfections corrected as much as possible. The "casting" process can then commence. Each sculptor can, to a certain extent, vary the composition of the bronze mix to alter the final colour (with brass and lead constituting the major ingredients, among others).

Every cast item is then finished off by hand, using acid, if the desired effect is a pale green oxidised one. Sometimes an algae-coloured bluish-green is attainable, as well as a sienna-brown colour. The colour-range is thus nowhere near as diverse as that which can be realised in painting or drawing. And so each little figurine is ready to take its place in the magic, dynamism, melancholy and measured optimism that constitutes Ali's exhibits.

The works of Mustapha Ali can be seen at the Baladna Gallery (Tel: 687598), Wasfi Telli Street, Amman.

## Music industry calls for pressure on Bulgarian pirates

SOFIA, (R) — The music industry has asked the European Commission to urge Bulgaria to stop producing pirate compact discs which it says are destabilising the industry and costing it \$100 million a year. Bulgaria is second only to China in the export of pirate CDs, producing an estimated 15 million discs a year, the worldwide industry body said in a statement Thursday.

The International Federation of Phonographic Industry (IFPI) is calling for the commission to urge the Bulgarian government to act against five CD plants which are estimated to supply approximately one in eight of all illegal copies on the world CD blackmarket," the statement said.

The federation wants action before a visit to Sofia on March 17 by European Union (EU) External Relations Commissioner Hans Van Den Broek.

The IFPI, representing a \$40 billion international recording industry, said it planned to present new evidence on the flow of Bulgarian pirate CDs into the rest of Europe.

IFPI Director-General Nicholas Garnett said he hoped Mr. Van Den Broek would raise the issue with the Bulgarian government during his visit.

There is now conclusive evidence that, despite some attempts to tackle the problem, Bulgarian-manufactured CDs are destabilising recorded music markets within the EU and Eastern Europe, in breach of World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

"We are asking the European Commission to use all means at its disposal to press

for urgent action by the Bulgarian authorities," he said in the statement.

Washington put Bulgaria on a "watch list" last October and the IFPI urged the EU to block Bulgaria's accession to the WTO until it cracked down on piracy.

Bulgaria's annual pirate sales are \$9.7 million out of total sales of \$12.2 million, the IFPI said.

Audio and video piracy has flourished since the collapse of communism in 1989 and Bulgaria's production costs the European recording industry some \$100 million a year, the IFPI said.

Mr. Garnett told Reuters the Bulgarian authorities had allowed the country's manufacturing capacity to grow without control.

He said Bulgarian pirate products were of very high quality. The IFPI estimates the pirate CDs are flowing into Russia alone at a rate of one million a month and from there they are distributed to the Baltic states, Finland, Scandinavia and on to the world market.

Recent seizures include latest hits by best-selling artists the Spice Girls and Celine Dion, seized in Finland and Athens.

The IFPI represents some 1,200 record producers in over 70 countries and six major record companies.

Last year Bulgarian police investigated more than 200 audio and video producers and distributors and 83 cases were referred to the prosecutor's office but no one has been convicted yet, Bulgarian officials said.

## Fashion and family for 'wonderbra woman' Herzigova

By Charlotte Cooper

Reuters

MILAN — Milan fashion week is a hectic, heady time for "wonderbra woman" Eva Herzigova but the 23-year-old Czech supermodel says she still phones her parents to stop all the glamour going to her head.

Herzigova said in an interview at the autumn/winter 1997/98 designer shows Tuesday that she is still close to friends from her teens in former communist Czechoslovakia but admits Eva on the catwalk and Eva at home are not always the same person.

"When I go back I change. I'm not the Eva Herzigova that I am here. I change into this person I used to be back then to relate to my friends, to be more easily accessible," she said.

The blonde supermodel, five feet 10.5 inches (1 metre 76 cm) with sparkling blue eyes, still loves to visit the Czech Republic seven years after her career took off by chance.

"I always think my home is there. I do love to go back for a certain time. I didn't think of going back there forever — you know, stay-

ing for the rest of my life, no. I've got used to the service of the Western countries," she said.

Despite growing up in the drab Eastern Bloc, where fashion magazines did not exist, she soon took to the glamour life-style.

"When you're 17 years old you adapt to things very easily. We had a TV and I used to see things on TV. It was exciting but it wasn't a shock."

Herzigova, from Litvinov in the north of the Czech Republic, fell into fashion after a friend persuaded her to enter a modelling contest in Prague.

"I was one of the first girls from the Eastern Bloc and it was very exotic for the whole modelling business. I was lucky to start work right away. I was the right look at the right time."

Seven years on, she speaks fluent English and French as well as Czech and Russian and has pouted from magazine covers and advertising campaigns — including flashing her kittenish smile in a series of flirtatious wonderbra ads — across the world.

But supermodel status can be tough. A media scuffle at

the Cannes Film Festival left her shocked and scared. "People pushed and they were fighting. Cameras were all around. We got in the car and all people just smashed their faces against the windows and I couldn't see one bit of light."

"It made me realise how much people idolise models and beauty and glamour," she said.

Communicating with her family back in the Czech Republic helps keep things in perspective.

"I always call my parents. You're head can grow so big in such a little time and talking to my parents makes me realise who I am, what I want and what I'm here for," she said.

Herzigova has dabbled with a movie career, appearing in "Les Anges Gardiens" (Guardian Angels) with France's Gerard Depardieu, and says she would be interested in acting again.

But if that didn't work out Herzigova, who married the drummer of rock band Bon Jovi Tico Torres last September, said she wouldn't care. "I'd just have a family," she said.



Czech super model Eva Herzigova displays a red evening dress for Laura Biagiotti's autumn/winter 1997/98 women's ready-to-wear collection at Milan's fashion show on March 6 (Reuters photo)



## Hello Dolly, are you a wolf in sheep's cloning?

By taking a cell from a sheep's udder and turning it into a lamb, scientists have provoked anxious debate about the possibility of cloning humans. Once again research has outstripped ethics

By Pearce Wright

LONDON — A year ago, Dolly, now the most famous sheep in the world, was merely a gleam in the eye of Ian Wilmut and his colleagues at the Roslin Institute and the pharmaceutical company PPL Therapeutics.

For the sake of her birth certificate, Wilmut's Edinburgh-based band of researchers must do the decent thing and sign up as Dolly's stepfathers.

For she is not the result of mating between ewe and ram. Dolly was created, not conceived. She was made by combining a cell from the udder of a six-year-old ewe with an unfertilised egg of another ewe from which the genetic information had been removed. This was allowed to grow inside a third, "foster mother" sheep.

The result is the first mammal produced by cloning, or created scientifically as an identical copy of another.

The breakthrough inevitably raised the question: A sheep today, why not a human tomorrow? And a predictable future followed.

Dolly has excited and split the scientific community, rattled the ethicists and moralists, and angered opponents of genetic engineering.

The stock markets showed their reliable pragmatism, and put a high premium on the value of PPL Therapeutics.

A particularly warm welcome came from Australia because the breakthrough has the potential of adding millions of dollars to the country's sheep-led agricultural exports and to agri-

a new biopharmaceutical industry.

Dolly's creators can see many biomedical developments evolving from their research. But their opponents are far from sanguine.

British nuclear physicist and winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, Professor Joseph Rotblat, says it could put the future of humankind in jeopardy.

He says some science may have to be more closely controlled — however, much the researchers may dislike it. And he has called for the formation of an International Ethical Committee for Science to vet projects which have potential moral and social implications before the research begins.

Undaunted by the international kerfuffle, the Roslin team expects the breakthrough to lead to valuable technologies to prevent diseases in animals and people. It could enable other genetic engineering tricks to be used in the cloning of cattle and sheep.

The animals could then produce milk enriched with human proteins to treat blood-clotting disorders and countless other valuable medical and dietary products.

Wilmut also accepts there is probably no scientific barrier to using the technique to clone adult humans — eerily conjuring visions of the novel Boys From Brazil, in which young Hitler clones were created from one of the infamous German dictator's heirs.

But the governments of Britain and other European Union countries, the United States and Australia were quick off the mark on news of Dolly to reassure the pub-

lic that existing laws made it illegal to use cloning techniques in human reproductive medicine.

Perhaps reflecting the sensitivity to the anti-abortion lobby, U.S. President Bill Clinton reacted to the "startling" news of the cloning, and asked a bioethics advisory commission to examine the implications.

The birth of Dolly is a reminder of past failures over advances in reproductive technology — such as artificial insemination by donor, and deep-freeze storage of semen — that were used in animal breeding for 10 to 15 years before technology was tried in people, sparking controversy.

Another advance that shocked the world was the development of the test-tube baby technique, in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).

Long before Louise Brown, the first IVF baby, was born 18 years ago, Dr. Robert Edwards, the co-pioneer of the technique at Cambridge, called for a public debate on the ethics. His appeal fell on deaf ears.

Consequently, Louise Brown's birth unleashed a wave of ethical soul-searching and moral contemplation.

Yet she paved the way for the joyous births of 150,000 other babies (at the latest count) to infertile couples.

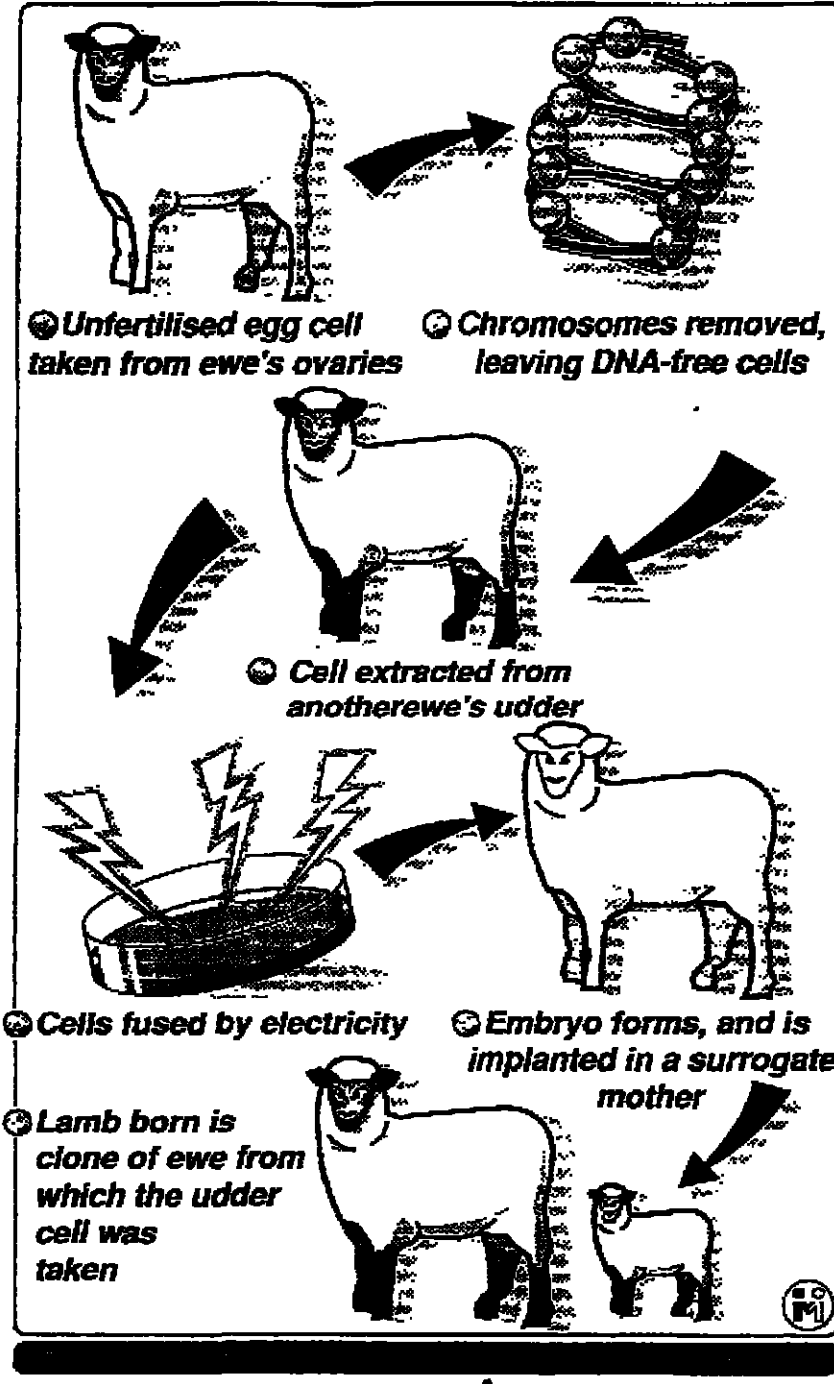
Experience seems to support Professor Rotblat's view that the time to discuss these matters is before the research has taken place, not afterwards when it is too late.

Prof. Rotblat recognises the magnitude of the difficulties associated with his proposal, but says the alternative is to put the future of mankind in jeopardy.

Science is progressing at such speed, he believes, that the danger goes beyond research in genetics and the cloning of Dolly, and could have far-reaching consequences for humanity.

He maintains that governments are often reluctant to act on scientific issues because they do not under-

## Planned parenthood



stand the implications of the projects. Consequently, in his view, scientists should exercise more responsibility for the impact of their work on society.

Prof. Rotblat is no stranger to controversy. Recently, he urged fellow scientists to refuse to help to develop weapons of mass destruc-

tion and to "blow the whistle" on any projects that posed a danger to humankind.

His appeal came at the Nobel Peace Prize awards ceremony in Oslo in early 1997, when he called on nuclear powers to dismantle all atomic weapons within 10 years.

He said governments and industries sometimes concealed the true nature of scientific research from the public and that it was a scientist's duty to expose such impropriety.

"Whistle-blowing should become part of the scientist's ethos," he said. "This

may bring reprisals — a price to be paid for one's convictions."

He speaks from experience. A brilliant physicist, he was recruited to the original atomic bomb project, but resigned, when he realised its destructive consequences.

Prof. Rotblat, who later spent many years studying medical physics and the medicinal use of radiation, is the last survivor of the group of scientists who signed the Bertrand Russell-Albert Einstein manifesto against the H-bomb in the mid-1950 — Gemini News.

## Genetic discovery gives clue to cancer — report

LONDON (R) — British researchers have said they had found a genetic explanation for why cancer cells grow into uncontrollable tumours.

The Cancer Research Campaign, which helped sponsor the study, said it could open the way for radical new treatments.

"This discovery is very exciting because it could have implications for new therapies and diagnosis," said Dr. Nicol Keith, who headed the research at Glasgow University.

When someone has cancer, some of their cells do not die off when they are supposed to in a pre-programmed process called apoptosis. Instead they become immortal and multiply out of control.

Dr. Keith's team focused on an enzyme called telomerase, which stops apoptosis. It is active in developing fo-

etuses, where rapid growth is essential, and in cancer.

Reporting in the journal *Oncogene*, the Glasgow researchers said they had found a telomerase gene in the damaged chromosomes of cancer cells.

They said it was the most vital of three genes that "instruct" the enzyme to work.

It switches on the enzyme and, in cancer, the effect it produces is more extreme than in growing foetuses. Normally, telomerase should be switched off at the time of birth.

"To scientists across the world this discovery fits like a jigsaw with what we already understand about cancer development," Cancer Research Campaign Director-General Gordon McVie said in a statement.

"This is the first report of a genetic alteration involving telomerase in human cancer," he added.

## 'Breast self-exam may not save lives'

By Joanne Kenen  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Breast self-exams do not appear to prevent cancer deaths, detect more cancers, or lead to earlier diagnosis, according to early results of a large-scale study.

The study, involving nearly 300,000 Chinese women, is set to continue for another five years, and the trends may shift as the women age.

But so far, the benefits seem insignificant and the findings suggest that it may not make sense to spend significant public health dollars to teach and promote self-examination, the study's chief author said.

"It's not particularly encouraging at this point," Dr. David Thomas, an epidemiologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, said in a telephone interview. The study appeared in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Dr. Thomas said he did not want to discourage women from doing self-exams, particularly if they are at high risk for breast cancer. But he said they shouldn't rely only on self-exams, and should have mammograms, particularly after age 50.

"I wouldn't want to discourage it, if they feel it's important. But on the other hand, we can provide some caution to people who are suggesting there should be some intensive public health drive to get all women to do breast self-examination," Dr. Thomas said.

Earlier studies on breast self-exam have had mixed results, prompting calls for a study on this scale. Starting in 1989, it involved more than 267,000 textile workers at 520 factories in Shanghai, China, born between 1925 and 1958.

Half the women were instructed in how to do self-examinations, including practice sessions, reinforcement sessions and periodic reminders. The women in the control group instead attended a training session on back pain.

None of the women got mammograms, which are not routinely available to this population.

The women trained in self-exams did not have a lower breast cancer death rate than the control group, the study found. Self-exams did not lead to more detection, or earlier detection, of tumours.

It did lead to more identification of noncancerous benign breast lumps.

Dr. Thomas said that studies on mammograms have also shown that the benefits do not emerge for a few years, and he stressed it was important to continue the study for another five years to get definitive answers. But he said that right now, it did not look promising.

In an editorial in the same journal, Dr. Cornelia Baines of the University of Toronto praised the study's scope and design, but said it was important to wait for the final 10-year results.

"The potential for breast self-examination to aid women in the control of breast cancer has been recognised for more than 60 years," she wrote. "Nevertheless, in the mid-1990s, the efficacy of (self-examination) has yet to be established firmly."

Dr. Thomas said some earlier studies relying on healthy volunteers who regularly did the exams may have had an intrinsic bias, because those women may have healthier lifestyles and thus have a lower risk of cancer.

## U.K. team close to cystic fibrosis gene therapy

LONDON (R) — British researchers say they have taken a big step towards finding a gene therapy treatment for cystic fibrosis (CF) by using fatty molecules to deliver healthy genes into the body.

Two separate studies published in the journal *Gene Therapy* recently describe the use of liposomes to deliver genes that researchers hope can "re-programme" the cells of cystic fibrosis sufferers.

CF causes malfunctioning of several glands, including those in the airways and digestive tract. Among any other symptoms sufferers overproduce mucus and can have trouble breathing.

If two parents carry the defective CF gene, their children have a one in four chance of developing CF. One in 20 people of European descent carries the cystic fibrosis gene, making it one of the most commonly inherited genetic diseases.

Two teams, one combining researchers in Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester and Leeds and a second one based in Edinburgh, used liposomes to deliver normal genes into the airways of sufferers.

They used liposomes developed at the University of Pittsburgh and by Boehringer Mannheim, a division of Corange International, in trials coordinated by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust Charity and the Medical Research Council.

The technique used is called gene delivery, not gene therapy, as it causes no permanent alteration of the cells.

"The results are very small and short-lived," said Dr. Martin Scott, medical and scientific director of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. But he said results were encouraging.

"Both studies, using different forms of the gene and different kinds of liposomes, have shown it seems to be safe and one is getting some signals showing that the genes have gone in and switched themselves on."

The researchers used a nasal drip or spray to deliver the liposomes. "The cells lining the surface of the nose are very similar to those lining the surface of the lungs," Dr. Scott said. "The next stage is to go into the lungs."

True gene therapy would involve permanently altering a patient's genes, not just the genes in a cell that will eventually die. No one has done it yet.

"There is a long way still to go before we have a cure for cystic fibrosis, but we are moving in the right direction," said David Porteous of the Medical Research Council's Human Genetics Unit at Edinburgh University.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SORRY, CAROL  
By William Canine

ACROSS

1. Decade
2. Whistler's mink
3. Game of chance
4. Site of Shaggy
5. Salt lake
6. On a mountain
7. Country official
8. Act
9. Atom
10. Nick Lawrence
11. Chestnut
12. Accomplishes
13. Team
14. Plaything
15. Plan
16. Dingo Ham
17. Wasp

DOWN

1. Highlander's sister
2. Game of chance
3. Game of chance
4. Game of chance
5. Game of chance
6. Game of chance
7. Game of chance
8. Game of chance
9. Game of chance
10. Game of chance
11. Game of chance
12. Game of chance
13. Game of chance
14. Game of chance
15. Game of chance
16. Game of chance
17. Game of chance

Diagrammatic 21x21

By Roger Coburn

ACROSS

1. Animal's grunts
2. Game of chance
3. Game of chance
4. Game of chance
5. Game of chance
6. Game of chance
7. Game of chance
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9. Game of chance
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DOWN

1. Game of chance
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## SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Dodo
2. Baobab tree
3. France
4. Germany
5. USA
6. Eire
7. Italy
8. Canada
9. Iraq
10. Burma
11. Argentina

DOWN

1. Dodo
2. Baobab tree
3. France
4. Germany
5. USA
6. Eire
7. Italy
8. Canada
9. Iraq
10. Burma
11. Argentina

## Last Week's Cryptogram

1. Politician running for local dog warden debates issues with his opponent as group of barking canines look on.
2. Poor sailor picks rose in park and gives it to girl in a bud vase — a long-necked beer bottle.
3. With gas prices pushing higher, driver envisioned a gusher on his town's acre.
4. Bearly sharpshooter pointed gun at target and hit bull's-eye.

## CRYPTOGRAMS

1. VDIPTZ POZCUREZ ADURMNS LENG VUWVS  
CONTAIN ZCENG: "E NEMO SKI, WIL WILL  
KIL."

2. KNYZ MXL SCXJLGLZE FIMMYZG FITYEOL  
SROE NHJ SEPICHELZ YZLNZ LI JEPZ  
NEJ JYZ.

3. JTYGAOD BAAX, MIXERS GIPSY ZETFI,  
LYPID SPDDL, MOL FITYD PYZIED ODESS  
LAFILA ZIDLY.

4. Y RUIN RUN OKE SKIN DSRUDDUZI MI NX  
OBUI NE RYZDMS.

5. Y RUIN RUN OKE SKIN DSRUDDUZI MI NX  
OBUI NE RYZDMS.

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29. Y RUIN RUN OKE SKIN DSRUDDUZI MI NX  
OBUI NE RYZDMS.

30. Y RUIN RUN OKE SKIN DSRUDDUZI MI NX  
OBUI NE RYZDMS.

## BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Dodo, great auk, moa, aepyornis.

2. Baobab tree (several thousand years), pike (200 years), salmon (100 years), goose (50 years), cattle (25-30 years), horse (15-30 years), dog (12-16 years), cat (about 12 years), candytuft (an annual).

3. France — Paris on the Seine.

Germany — Berlin on the Spree.

USA — Washington on the Potomac.

Eire — Dublin on the Liffey.

Italy — Rome on the Tiber.

Canada — Ottawa on the Ottawa.

Iraq — Baghdad on the Tigris.

Burma — Rangoon on the Irrawaddy.

Argentina — Buenos Aires on the Rio de La Plata.

## ANSWERS

Portugal — Lisbon on the Tagus.

4. Monkey-bread is the fruit of the baobab tree. A monkey-engine lifts the monkey or a pile-driver. The monkey-flower is the mimulus which resembles a monkey's face.

The monkey-puzzle is *araucaria imbricata* or Chile pine, which has broad prickly spines so that even a monkey cannot climb it.

A monkey-jacket is a short tight-fitting jacket worn by sailors, and so-called because it has no more tail than a monkey (or rather an ape).

\*\*\*\*

## PUZZLES

(B) : C, D.



## Netanyahu justifies actions in reply to King's message

(Continued from page 1)

This is an increase by more than a factor of three. And this is only the first of three FRDs. As you know, nearly all Palestinians in the territories now live under Palestinian rule. Washington clearly understood that Israel had provided a credible FRD when it announced that the redeployment was "a demonstration of Israel's commitment to the peace process and a positive first step."

What made the FRD particularly difficult for my government was the lack of Palestinian reciprocity. As you recall, the post-Hebron "Note for the Record" listed the obligations of both parties to the continuation of the Oslo process. Since Hebron, we explained to the Palestinian Authority that they had violated their obligation by releasing Hamas and Islamic Jihad hard-core terrorists — many of whom were involved in the 1996 bus-bombings. The Palestinian Authority failed to respond to our presentations.

We informed them that at least four of the 20 or so PA institutions in Jerusalem had unquestionably violated the Palestinian undertaking to restrict PA activity to areas under its jurisdiction. Again the PA failed to respond.

For the peace process to work in Israel, it must produce a "peace of consensus" — not a peace which rests on a fragile and questionable parliamentary majority. I delivered such a peace when 87 Knesset members voted for the Hebron agreement as opposed to the 61 members who supported the 1995 Oslo

II interim agreement. The narrowly-supported peace of Oslo II could not have lasted — it was already leading to a dangerous polarisation of Israeli society.

"Only my government can deliver the more stable 'peace of consensus.' But it cannot do so if it is forced to ignore more than half of the Israeli electorate."

The Oslo process has not left us an easy legacy. It put off the greatest differences between Israel and the Palestinians to later stages. The process began with Gaza-Jericho, then turned to the cities of the West Bank, and finally the countryside surrounding the cities. Each stage represented a higher level of sensitivity and risk for Israel. Moreover, as we turn from these interim issues to final status questions, the degree of difficulty in the process naturally increases. We cannot make the Jordanian-Israeli relationship hostage to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track.

We cannot give every Palestinian-Israeli impasse the power to hurt our own relationship.

Nor can I understand how the building inside Jerusalem's municipal borders of 2,500 housing for Jews and 3,015 housing units for Arabs can be construed as "further construction of settlements."

I believe my record speaks for itself. Despite tremendous resistance from some in my own constituency, I have chosen the path of the Oslo process. But I believe that once a decision to take this path is made, both sides must

decide that the option of violence has ceased to exist.

Let me assure you that I have appreciated the courage and resolve with which you have helped keep the peace process alive. I hold you in the highest esteem and I value your friendship and understanding. That is why I must confess that I am baffled by the personal level of the attacks against me. In all my exchanges with leaders in the Middle East — whether in private or in public — I do not use this sort of idiom. We cannot allow the periodic and inevitable disagreements in the peace process to cause such volatile fluctuations in the relations between nations. I can only conclude that you are not being fully apprised of the true picture of the situation in Israel as

well as our overriding responsibility to ensure the survival and future of our country. The quest for peace belongs to both camps of the Israeli political spectrum.

Israel and Jordan faced worse crises in the past than the problem we are facing today. It is up to us to realise our historical mutual interests and not let the setbacks of the Palestinian track cloud the understandings that were begun by my predecessors. Surely, we can achieve this end in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding and with the unrelenting hope and resolve to secure a better future for all peoples of this region.

Sincerely yours,  
Benjamin Netanyahu

## King and Queen arrive in Spain

(Continued from page 1)

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan welcomed any Arab or Islamic summit meeting to deal with the situation facing Arab Jerusalem.

King Hussein's trip abroad, the prime minister said, "is a continuation to earlier efforts but it underlines Jordan's commitment to the Jerusalem question which is very sensitive."

"The Israeli government is tampering with Jordan's legal and historic rights in Arab Jerusalem and violating the Washington Declaration and the Oslo accord," said Mr. Kabariti.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said that King Hussein's visit to the United States was of high

importance at a time the peace process is at a critical stage after the Israeli government's decision to build new settlements on Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab East Jerusalem.

In an interview with the New York-based Al Shararah newspaper, Dr. Muasher said: "The Israeli decision to build new settlements will adversely affect the whole peace process."

The minister said King Hussein's talks with President Clinton will focus on giving impetus to the peace process and to remove all obstacles impeding its progress. He added that the King's talks would also cover bilateral relations.

"Jordan plays a pivotal role in the region and in the Middle East peace process and cites a good model for political and

economic openness as well as creating a new Middle East to enjoy stability and prosperity," said Dr. Muasher.

The minister said that the King will call upon the U.S. administration to support the Jordanian model and extend assistance to the Kingdom at this stage in order to reach a state at which "we can rely on our own economy."

He said the King would also focus on the resumption of peace negotiations on the Israeli-Lebanese and the Israeli-Syrian tracks and the Iraqi question as well as lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait.

In reply to a question on Israeli attempts to obstruct bilateral agreements with the Palestinians before final status negotiations, Dr. Muasher said: "Jordan's stand towards

this issue is clear. Jordan does not agree with the Israeli decision to build new settlements on Jabal Abu Ghneim and it does not condone any violation of the redeployment agreement with the Palestinians. Such Israeli measures do endanger the atmosphere of trust which affects the progress of the peace process."

Dr. Muasher expressed Jordan's anger at the Israeli policies which was obvious in King Hussein's message to Mr. Netanyahu as well as Mr. Kabariti's meeting with Mr. Mordechai in Amman.

Dr. Muasher stressed that Jordan, Palestinian and Egyptian views on the current situation in the peace process were identical.

Coordination is at the highest levels and such a coordination is quite clear in the Hebron accord, said Dr. Muasher.

## Jordan-Israel ties in difficult period

(Continued from page 1)

status negotiations," he reaffirmed.

The King voiced hope that the two sides would rise to the challenges and coordinate at the highest levels a unified stand to face the crisis.

"We want to figure out whether they are with peace or not, and I think that the majority are supporting peace, a comprehensive and just one," added the King.

On the American role in the region, the King said: "My visit to the United States (see separate story)

is to discuss the latest Israeli measures in Jerusalem and the redeployment issue and I hope we hold positive talks on this regard with the American administration."

On the Islamic Action Front's (IAF) demand that the government sever relations and withdraw the Jordanian ambassador from Israel, the King said: "I disagree with cutting off ties with others. We in the Arab World faced a crisis of breaking ties and I think we can reach positive results through dialogue."

## Israel is weakening prospects

(Continued from page 1)

President Yasser Arafat's call for a conference in Gaza on Saturday involving countries that signed the Oslo agreement, the Regent said the meeting will offer the participants a good chance for dialogue and exchange of views on the crisis.

In an interview with the London-based Al Hayat daily, Crown Prince Hassan called on the United States to help salvage the Middle East peace process and criticised Washington for limiting its regional concern to "oil, security and Israel."

"The United States must maintain its credibility with both the Israelis and the Palestinians in order to play a role in the next phase of the peace negotiations," Al Hayat quoted Prince Hassan as saying in Wednesday's editions.

"The United States must review its policies in the region and give sufficient importance to the humanitarian aspect and economic development instead of

focusing on oil, security and Israel," he added in London.

"It was hoped after the reelection of U.S. President Bill Clinton that more thought would be given to the next phase and that these three topics (oil, security and Israel) would not influence American concerns," he said.

Israel's decision to build a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem "undermines the credibility of the peace process," he told the newspaper in an interview conducted on Monday.

"He stressed that Arab East Jerusalem should be the capital of a Palestinian state."

"The Palestinian economy, Prince Hassan said, is 70 per cent dependent on the Israeli economy, a situation that should end so that the Palestinian economy can be free of Israeli hegemony."

Prince Hassan also reiterated Jordan's support of Iraq's territorial unity and said Baghdad "remains effectively the only economic alternative for the Jordanian people."

## Arafat urges 'peace of brave'

(Continued from page 1)

eruption of violence," Mr. Netanyahu said in a radio interview from Moscow, where he was on an official visit. "So far there has been no spontaneous violence. Arafat is focusing on the international level and controls things on the ground. But he is deliberately fuelling a political crisis and Israel will not accept this," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu said that if Saturday's conference was "destined to make decisions" on the peace process, then "it violates our agreements."

Palestinians were outraged by Israel's announcement last week that it hand over nine per cent of the West Bank in the first of three transfers to be carried out over the next 18 months. The Palestinians demanded some 30 per cent.

The Israeli decision stoked Palestinian protests over Israeli plans to build a settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab East Jerusalem and to force the closure of four Palestinian offices in Arab East Jerusalem which Israel says are run by the self-rule authority.



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## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Anani sees Jordan shifting to 'corporate economy'

FEW PEOPLE are noticing or talking about a shift in the Jordanian economy, former minister and known economist Jawad Anani said recently in a lecture. Dr. Anani pointed out that the Jordanian economy is becoming more corporate as the individual is no longer the holder of funds but rather the institutions which are running the operations and the economy.

Describing the situation as "the beginning of investment maturity," Dr. Anani explained that it is no longer possible to negotiate or deal with an individual but rather directly with institutions. He indicated that discrimination was the most fatal in economics and stressed that the development of institutions precedes the development of individuals.

Dr. Anani told his audience that the time of international aid has ended. He described the extension of aid in the past as a "historic coincidence" noting that there are no countries that have surplus funds to give away to other countries.

The lecturer predicted an economic recovery would start by the end of this year and that such a recovery would "mature" in 1999 as it would progress with the peace process until that time. He saw the recovery in the areas of exports, tourism and transport in addition to the availability of job opportunities in Gulf countries and higher activity in Jordan's external trade.

"If the recovery is to mean higher productivity, reduction in the deficit and an increase in the balance of foreign exchange, then the recovery in this context will not happen in 1997 because such indicators have been continuously improving during the past four years and including this year," he said. "What is required is not only to maintain the present growth indicators but to keep constant progress in the development process," he added.

Dr. Anani saw a slight recovery in 1997 in terms of lessening poverty and widening the middle class segment of the society. He also saw a probability of speculation at the stock exchange and the real estate market happening in the second half of this year if recovery is to be looked at from that perspective (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1997

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Benefits from a distance are not forthcoming today, so handle local matters which you feel are more important. Go through with tonight's plans and thereby you can make your career activities more successful.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Don't overspend today for pleasure or you could find yourself short of funds if the situation develops for you to have some extra money. Go after whatever wholesome and delightful. Take care of your health in the days ahead.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Remain neutral today if a disagreement starts between a loved one and an outsider and it will soon blow over. Later this evening you can meet with a knowledgeable person and discuss your career activities with him or her.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Don't forget to answer today a message from a good friend which concerns your career activities. Enjoy a hobby later this evening and you can relieve the stress created from your business activities or you could explode.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get into practical situations today which have to be righted. A wise person could give you advice later which would be well to follow and thereby make the projects which you are involved much more simplified.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Go after your personal desires today and get in touch with your close friends and show affection for them. Later this evening will be good to go out with your mate and have a romantic time together and have some fun.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You are able to get into private matters today which are important to you and make your efforts more productive. Your closest loved ones will be very helpful for your career activities, so make the best of a good situation.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Contact good friends today who can assist you in gaining personal wishes. Plan a campaign with your loved ones to seek out pleasures in the days ahead, which will make your lives more enjoyable to everyone.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Your ideas are poor and your judgement is not up to par today, so rely on advice given by bigwigs who have the patience to wait until another time. Later this evening will make your tasks much more successful.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Have conversations today with those whose views are different from your own, thereby you can avoid any differences of opinion. Steer clear later this evening of a jealous person who is only out for him or herself, so be alert.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can come to a better understanding with your fellow associate if you are with that person today. Later this evening will be good for you to meet with those in authority and submit a plan of action which is successful.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Take some time today to comprehend the views of a fellow associate, and make sure you are clear on the circumstances. Give more support to your loved ones and get ahead with his or her assistance.

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AKDEB  
ADURF  
ENBODY  
CUDISS

He'll never make the fashion magazines impossible for a sloppy cryptographer to crack.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

Yesterday's Jumble: HOUSE BEGUN POTTER HOMAGE  
Answer: How patients have to pay some cosmetic surgeons - THROUGH THE NOSE

## The changing role of the banking sector: Lessons from Jordanian experience

This is the first of a three-part presentation given by **Musleh Akel**, senior manager at the Arab Bank head office in Amman, at a conference on "Opportunities for Investment in the Mediterranean Region" that was held in London last week.

### Introduction

THANKS to the peace process and the promise of security in our region, Jordan and other countries of the Middle East have been spotlighted as emerging economies of interest to international investors, especially since 1994. I can assure you that, despite some flagging optimism during this past year, Jordan abounds with attractive opportunities in the industrial and service sectors, including soon-to-be privatised utilities. These opportunities are matched by an increasingly investor-friendly legal and economic environment — including a network of professional banking and finance institutions ready to help you succeed.

Jordan is enjoying a high rate of economic growth while maintaining stable macro-economic indicators achieved through unwavering commitment to a structural adjustment programme initiated in 1989, well before the peace process took off. Still, the peace process has made everyone aware that there is a limited window of opportunity that must be seized. It has motivated Jordan to accelerate other changes to create an environment attractive to the foreign investment needed to fully activate the economic potential of Jordan and our entire region.

This presentation will review some shared characteristics of the Arab Middle Eastern economies, look at the status of Jordan's fast-developing economy and describe the capabilities and contributions of our banking sector. It also will consider some of the projected reforms and challenges still facing the Jordanian economy and thus, our banks and our investor-partners, in the near future.

### Regional financing concerns

The 1990s may well be the most critical decade in the economic history of the Arab region in general and the Middle East region in particular. All future trends indicate the existence of real opportunities to transform the region into an active economic power. Missing this opportunity may lead to the erosion of previously achieved economic gains, putting the future well-being of the whole region at risk.

If the Middle Eastern countries are committed to achieving and sustaining high rates of economic growth, they must address three challenges:

- 1) Enhance domestic savings
- 2) Attract foreign capital
- 3) Encourage repatriation of the substantial capital held abroad by residents

Despite the significant diversity among countries of the region, levels of investment in the Middle East have remained well below the average levels in the fast growing Asian countries.

Middle Eastern countries have missed both the benefits of direct foreign investment and the associated transfer of technology and managerial expertise.

Furthermore, several countries within the region are hobbled by a significant financial gap caused by the need to finance growth, cover trade and general budget deficits while meeting, at the same time, private sector demands and servicing the outstanding external debts.

**CAIRO (R)** — Three banks in Egypt have failed to meet the capital adequacy ratio set by the Basle accord, six years after the central bank told them to do so by the end of 1993, a central bank official has said.

The official was responding to a damning review of bank supervision in Egypt, presented at a financial sector conference by an academic and consultant to the prime minister's office.

The academic, Mahmoud

Mohiedin of Cairo University, said that rather than let any Egyptian-based bank fail the central bank preferred to relax prudential measures, for example by waiving its own reserve and liquidity requirements.

Mr. Mohiedin also said that some Egyptian banks were concealing the extent of their non-performing loans, which could amount to as much as 35 to 40 per cent of their total loans.

Faika Al Rifaie, a central

bank sub-governor, answered: "I want to assure you that the central bank is enforcing this (the Basle accord) and all the banks have complied. The three remaining banks will comply by June 1997."

Under the Basle accord, banks are required to have a minimum risk-weighted capital to assets ratio of eight per cent as a first line of defence for depositors.

Ms. Rifaie also said the proportion of non-perform-

ing loans in bank portfolios had declined but she gave no figures.

"Banks have tried to make bad loans good by restructuring companies and extending credit. They have succeeded in many cases so the level has gone down," she added.

But Mr. Mohiedin's paper said they went too far in this practice. "The effective supervision of banks, especially the public ones, has been compromised by po-

litical pressure. Loans to insolvent and ailing public-sector companies were allowed under the pressure of their concerned ministries," it said.

"Hence it is not surprising that the Egyptian banking system has suffered from a high ratio of non-performing loans," the paper pointed out.

The annual reports from the banks rarely give details of the quality of their portfolios or the adequacy of

provisions, he added. "Arrangements should be made to prevent...the problem of window dressing...the manipulation of published information to give a better picture of their position," he said.

Because of staff shortages, central bank personnel have failed to visit some banks at all. "The CBE (Central Bank of Egypt) was content with the periodic reports of such banks on their activities," Mr. Mohiedin said.

### Overview of the Jordanian economy

Jordan is a country of 4.2 million people. The economy is dominated by trade and services-related activities, which account for more than two-thirds of gross domestic product (GDP). Manufacturing, agriculture, mining and construction activities account for the remaining third.

In recent years, Jordan has made major progress towards achieving macro-economic stability and sustained economic growth — it now enjoys one of the highest rates in the Arab region. The U.N.'s Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has just projected Jordan's 1997 rate of growth at 6.2 per cent; that is a one percentage point increase over 1996. In the same report, ESCWA notes that Jordan has the lowest rate of inflation among the non-Gulf Arab states.

Jordan's remarkable success in achieving high real growth without inflationary pressures and a significant improvement in its balance of payments, is mainly attributed to the stabilisation and reform strategy adopted after the balance of payment crisis in the 1980s.

During this relatively short period of economic readjustment, Jordan managed to reduce its general budget deficit from 17 per cent of GDP in 1989 to less than four per cent in 1996. Inflation was similarly reduced from 26 per cent to five per cent during the same period. During the same period of time, investment increased from about 24 per cent to 35 per cent of GDP, and savings leapt from the negative to 12 per cent.

The following selected macroeconomic indicators reflect the progress achieved in the Jordanian economy through the period 1992/96:

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Real GDP growth	4.6%	5.8%	5.8%	6.4%	5.2%
Inflation	3.9%	3.3%	3.5%	2.3%	5.6%
Unemployment Rate	22%	19%	16%	15%	13%
Investment/GDP	30%	34%	33%	32%	33%
Consumption/GDP	99%	94%	90%	88%	88%
Savings/GDP	1%	6%	10%	12%	12%
Budget deficit/GDP	3%	6%	6%	5%	4.6%
Trade deficit/GDP	40%	42%	33%	29%	33%
Current a/c deficit/GDP	16%	11%	7%	4%	3%
Foreign debt/GDP	129%	109%	103%	96%	90%

## Some Egyptian banks have inadequate ratios

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## 257-member delegation to represent Jordan at Pan-Arab Games

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will be competing in 17 events when the 8th Pan-Arab Games begin in Beirut, Lebanon July 12-27.

With March 12 set as a final date for receiving preliminary entry forms to the Arab and Lebanese Sports Federations, the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) submitted the initial list for the Kingdom's participation in the biggest sporting event grouping athletes from all Arab countries.

JOC Technical Committee chief Sari Hamdan said a 257 member delegation would represent Jordan including 130 men and 37 women athletes, 64 officials and coaches, and 26 referees.

Dr. Hamdan said an evaluation committee would start meeting participating sports federations starting next week to finalise the events and number of athletes Jordan would take part in.

He said the preliminary decision included participating in athletics, basketball, karate, fencing, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, cycling, equestrian, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling, shooting and volleyball.

Other events at the Games include golf, yachting and tennis making up a total of 20 events.

Organisers said gymnastics and body-building have been excluded from the Games due to

scheduling and financial reasons.

Mr. Hamdan pointed out that two issues would be taken into consideration when the competing sports were finalised.

"Sports federations will have to show their teams' readiness for the Games. They will also have to pay 40 per cent of the participation fees while the Ministry of Youth will cover the rest," he explained.

Sources said in light of the fact that the participation of each athlete will cost \$650 the ministry had raised the budget set for the Games from JD 30,000 to JD 50,000.

"We hope to have an advanced standing. There were many sports in which our athletes were competitive in the last Games, and we hope to do better this time," Dr. Hamdan added.

The highlight of the Jordanian participation in the '92 Games was HRH Princess Haya's silver medal in the equestrian event and the basketball team's second place finish after failing to retain their title and settling for second place after losing to Syria 78-74 in the final minutes in a highly controversial match.

Jordan finished 9th in the last Pan-Arab Games with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Hosts Syria topped the medals table with 48 points, 31 silver, 37 bronze followed by Egypt and Algeria.

Beirut was scheduled to host the Games last September but the event was postponed after

the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon.

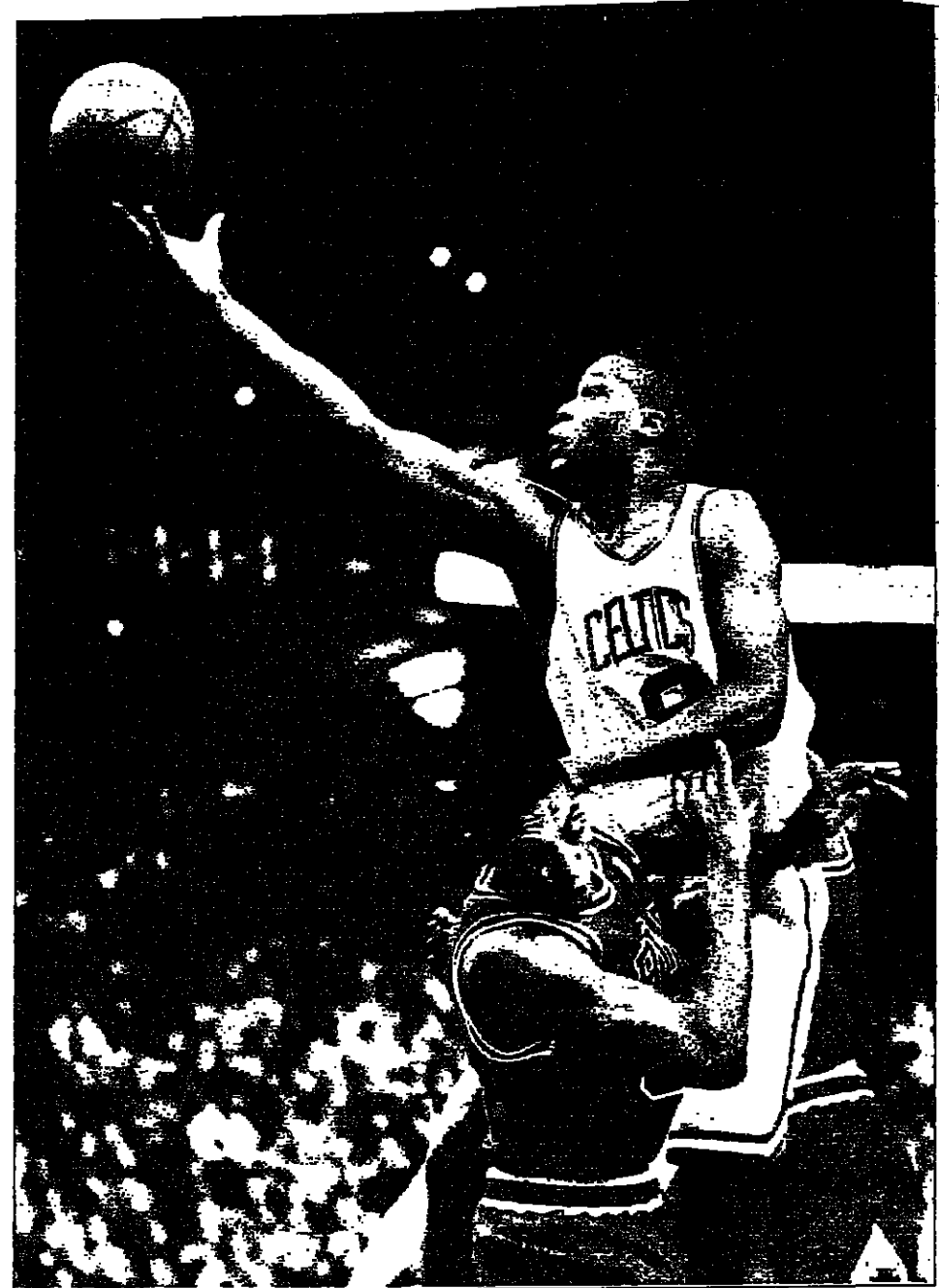
The Arab Games were held in Alexandria '53, Beirut '57, Casablanca '61, Cairo '65, Damascus '76, Morocco '85, Damascus '92.

JOC Technical Committee member Dr. Bassam Haroun said the Games were "an excellent opportunity to upgrade the national teams and a chance to know where we stand in the Arab and Asian sports arenas."

In a meeting with participating federations the JOC stressed the importance of appearing in a competitive form at the Games, noting that the organising of all local events would have to be in line with national teams' preparations for the event.

While the organisers and the JOC have not set rigid criteria for participation, Dr. Hamdan noted that previous winners and record holders in individual sports would be given a priority. In team sports, national teams with a halfway standing in previous competitions or teams with a chance of securing an advanced standing would be considered eligible.

Noting that the latest meeting of Arab sports ministers had stressed the importance of women's sports Dr. Hamdan said the basketball team was the only one of the Kingdom's teams to take part in team sports. Women would also compete in athletics, karate, fencing, swimming, taekwondo and table tennis.



Boston Celtics Antoine Walker collides with Chicago Bulls Scottie Pippen (R) as Walker tries to put up his shot in first half action in Boston (Reuters photo)

## Panathinaikos through to Euroleague quarters

PARIS (R) — Holders Panathinaikos, who had struggled in front of their own fans to beat Limoges 68-67 in the first leg, were in a class of their own in France on Tuesday, leading from start to finish to record an emphatic 70-55 victory and advance to the quarter-finals of the men's Euroleague competition.

Tight defence and 25 points by American Byron Dinkins were the keys to the victory of the Greeks, now trained by Bozidar Maljkovic, the guru of European basketball, who led Limoges to European championship triumph in 1993.

"I'm happy and at the same time a little bit sad because I have strong memories of my years in Limoges," said Maljkovic. Limoges fought hard in defence but were far too clumsy to trouble their visitors.

"Their win is logical and there was very little we could do," said Limoges

player Hugues Occansey, who had an off-day, failing to score.

Barcelona, beaten controversially in last season's final by Panathinaikos, booked their place in the last eight with a 72-62 win at home to Alba Berlin. The victory followed a handsome 95-77 success in Germany last week, but Barcelona made a meal out of qualifying for the next round after going in at half-time with a 33-12 lead on Tuesday.

Alba recovered from a poor start to reduce a one-time 26 point deficit to only four points in the final minutes, before Sasha Djordjevic ensured victory for the Spaniards.

The home side had quickly taken control in the opening minutes to move into a 12-3 lead. But the poor play of Germans seemed to affect Barcelona, and in six minutes of sloppy play from both teams only one basket was scored, to leave the game at 12-5.

Barcelona's Roger Esteller and Roberto Duenas turned up the pressure to produce the 21-point lead at the break. In the second half the gap widened to 40-14 with six consecutive points from Djordjevic — who had failed to score at all in the first half. From there it was not easy for Barcelona.

Coach Aito Garcia Reneses called a time-out at 53-39, but failed to stop the rot and in the end Barcelona had to thank triple-shot misses from Henrik Rodl and Henning Harnisch for the margin of victory.

Olympiacos were expected to progress after winning 81-71 away to Partizan Belgrade last week but surprisingly slipped up at home on Tuesday, losing 61-60, and must now travel back to Belgrade for the decider on Thursday.

Four other ties remain unresolved, including Stefanel Milan vs Kinder Bologna and Villeurbanne vs Estudiantes Madrid.

## Hodgson gets cross, as Simoni gets ready

MILAN (AFP) — Inter Milan coach Roy Hodgson made it clear on Wednesday that he won't pay any fine for his comments about the referee in Sunday night's match with Juventus.

Hodgson's refusal, amid reports that the Blackburn-bound coach will be replaced by Napoli's Gigi Simoni next season, followed his being reported to Italian football's disciplinary committee.

During the match, Hodgson shook referee Pierluigi Collina's hand and backed his controversial decision to rule a goal by Inter's Maurizio Ganz off-side, after first seeming to have given it.

But after the game, Hodgson was critical of three first-half attacks by Juventus which he claimed were off-side but which went unnoticed by Collina. The same referee had meanwhile disallowed a goal by Ganz against Perugia earlier in the season.

Earlier this week an

Italian Football Federation (FIGC) official said the 49-year-old from Croydon had been wrong to criticise Collina and was likely to face disciplinary action. Hodgson defended himself, saying: "I don't accept being reported and I'm not going to pay a fine."

"I don't understand the way of doing things in Italy," he lamented. "I nearly had a row with president Massimo Moratti because I said Collina had done the right thing to rule Ganz's goal off-side."

"I told the referee that he was right to disallow the goal because Ganz was clearly off-side. What more can a coach do?"

Hodgson was also in the Italian press because of his departure from Inter, with Simoni emerging as their man for next season.

Inter, who recently lost their Italian Cup semifinal to Napoli on penalties, are also reportedly closing in on a three-year contract for Napoli's Brazilian defender Andre Cruz.

## Jordan's 32 moves him up to 6th on all-time scorers list

BOSTON (R) — Michael Jordan scored 32 points and moved up one spot on the NBA all-time scoring list as the Chicago Bulls defeated the Boston Celtics, 117-106 on Tuesday.

Jordan made two free throws with 2:49 remaining to move into sixth all-time, surpassing former Celtics great John Havlicek. Jordan now has 26,399 points in his career, four more than Havlicek.

"It's kind of ironic," said Jordan of his milestone. "It was rewarding and expected. It is a great privilege to pass a great player like Havlicek, especially in this building."

Scottie Pippen added 27 points for the Bulls. Eric Williams scored 27 points for the Celtics.

In Atlanta, Steve Smith scored 27 points and Mookie Blaylock had 26 to lead the Atlanta Hawks to their fifth straight win, a 106-99 decision over the Utah Jazz.

Dikembe Mutombo added 17 points and 14 rebounds for Atlanta, which has won eight of its last nine games. "We wanted to push it up, we didn't want to walk with it," said Hawks coach Lenny Wilkens. "Our backcourt can score, they can get to the hoop."

Karl Malone led the Jazz with 24 points. In Charlotte, Anthony Mason had 24 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists and Glen Rice also had 24 points as the Charlotte Hornets won their sixth straight game, 98-92 over the Vancouver Grizzlies.

Vlade Divac had 11 points and Matt Geiger grabbed eight rebounds for the Hornets. Shaheed Rahim scored 24 points and Bryant Reeves added 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Grizzlies. In Dallas, Michael Finley had 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists as the Dallas Mavericks stopped their seven-game

losing streak and halted New York's seven-game winning streak with a 91-83 victory over the Knicks.

Rick Strickland had 22 points, including a 12-of-12 from the foul line, for the Mavericks, who ended their 11-game losing streak against New York and beat the Knicks in Dallas for the first time in six games.

In Denver, Penny Hardaway scored 27 points and Derek Strong added 20 to lead the Orlando Magic to a 96-91 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

In Milwaukee, Tim Hardaway had a trio of three-pointers to key a 20-8 run that broke the game open in the third quarter as the Miami Heat continued their dominance of the Milwaukee Bucks with a 108-93 victory.

Hardaway had 29 points and 12 assists for the Heat. Isaac Austin had 26 points and 10 rebounds for Miami. At Minnesota, Stephon Marbury had 13 points and a key steal in the final six minutes of the game to out-due fellow rookie point guard Allen Iverson as the Minnesota Timberwolves rallied for a 104-100 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

In Phoenix, Marcus Camby scored seven of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, including a key jumper with 51 seconds remaining, and Damon Stoudamire added 22 points as the Toronto Raptors held off the Phoenix Suns, 105-101. Stoudamire had nine

assists and Clifford Rozier contributed 20 points and 14 rebounds for Toronto.

In San Antonio, Kevin Willis recorded 19 points and nine rebounds and Hakeem Olajuwon added 17 and eight as the Houston Rockets completed a perfect five-game road trip with a 103-79 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

In Seattle, Sam Perkins came off the bench to score 20 points and Shawn Kemp had 16 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Seattle SuperSonics to a 93-80 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Perkins, who missed Sunday's game with a cut above his eye and was doubtful for tonight, scored 11 points in the third quarter as Seattle took a 71-57 lead into the fourth.

In Portland, Rasheed Wallace scored 26 points and Kenny Anderson had 16 points, seven assists and six rebounds as the Portland Trail Blazers extended their season-high winning streak to seven games with a 109-105 win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Isiah Rider had 15 points for Portland.

In Sacramento, Chris Mills scored 21 points and Tyrone Hill added 17 and 13 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers weathered a near six-minute scoreless drought in the fourth quarter and held on for an 88-83 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

### NBA RESULTS

Chicago	117	Boston	106
Atlanta	106	Utah	99
Charlotte	98	Vancouver	92
Minnesota	104	Philadelphia	100
Houston	103	San Antonio	79
Dallas	91	New York	83
Miami	108	Milwaukee	93
Orlando	96	Denver	91
Toronto	105	Phoenix	101
Portland	109	LA Clippers	105
Seattle	93	Detroit	80
Cleveland	88	Sacramento	85

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Nuerburgring keeps F1 race

NUERBURGRING, Germany (R) — Germany's Nuerburgring circuit will host the Luxembourg Grand Prix until 2001. Track owners said on Tuesday they had sealed the four-year deal with formula one constructors' association chief Bernie Ecclestone during talks in London. Ecclestone's conditions for agreement included the construction of a new drivers' medical centre, the owners said. The announcement followed Ecclestone's remarks in Melbourne at the weekend that he might scrap two European Grand Prix in 1998 and replace them with races in Malaysia and South Korea. "We must stop Formula One from going to the Far East and replacing the Nuerburgring," said Walter Kalfitz, head of the Nuerburgring company. The track will stage this year's race on September 28.

### Celtic fail to close gap on Rangers

GLASGOW (R) — Celtic's hopes of denying Rangers a record ninth successive Scottish League title were all but dashed when they lost 2-0 at Kilmarnock on Tuesday. Kilmarnock, second from bottom, went ahead in the 24th minute through top marksman Paul Wright. He curled a free-kick above the defensive wall into the top corner of the net to take his goal-count for the season to 13. Kilmarnock almost went two up in the 58th minute when a header by Alex Burke beat goalkeeper Stewart Kerr but was scrambled off the goal-line by full back Enrico Annoni. But the dangerous Burke was not to be denied, sealing Celtic's fate with Kilmarnock's second goal after 74 minutes. He pounced after Kerr had pushed Celtic, who trail Rangers by five points, came closest to scoring in the opening half-hour when both Peter Grant and Jorge Cadete hit the bar, grant with a chip and Cadete with a header.

### Torricelli out for the season

ROME (R) — Juventus defender Moreno Torricelli will probably be out of competitive soccer for the rest of the season after suffering a severe knee ligament injury in Sunday's 0-0 draw against Inter Milan. Italian newspapers reported on Tuesday. He is due to have his right knee operated on next week. Newspapers said he would probably be out for six or seven months and was unlikely to play a competitive match before the start of the new season next September — a hard blow for Juventus as they seek to retain their European Cup crown and win the Italian League.

### Bobic hat-trick destroys Cologne

COLOGNE (AFP) — Stuttgart's German international striker Fredi Bobic went top of the Bundesliga's goalscorers chart on Tuesday scoring a hat-trick in his side's 5-1 demolition of Cologne — their first away win since September 28. Bobic, who took his total to 16 for the season, forced home an equaliser seconds after Cologne's Rico Steinmann had given the home side the lead in the 20th minute and added two more in the 33rd and 86th minutes to send his team into third place. The 25-year-old Bobic's Brazilian strike partner Giovane Elber also got onto the score sheet with his 13th of the season as Cologne ended the match with only 10 men after their sweeper Michael Kostner was sent off in the 65th minute. Karlsruhe fans screamed 'cheat cheat' at the referee after their 3-2 defeat at home to Bochum. The referee disallowed an effort from Karlsruhe keeper Claus Reitmaier in the last minute which would have salvaged a point, but the official declared that his effort had bounced the wrong side of the line. Three of the leading four teams Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen have yet to play their matches.

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David Caruso, Kathryn Erbe, Helen Hunt, & Samuel Jackson ...in

KISS OF DEATH

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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PLAZA

Adel Imam, Shireen & Saeed Saleh  
Bakhit Wa Adilah (2)  
Al Jardal Walkankah

Shows: 12:00, 2:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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EXECUTIVE DECISION

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CONCORD "2"  
Michael Jordan ...in  
SPACEJAM

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## Agassi says excitement is back, even if results are not

INDIAN WELLS, California (AFP) — Andre Agassi has rekindled his fire for tennis, now he says it's just a matter of time before it shows in his results.

Agassi was ousted in one match for the fourth tournament in a row on Tuesday, conceding a close two-setter to Australian Mark Philippoussis in the first round of the \$2.3 million Champions Cup.

Even so, the 26-year-old American said his game and his morale were vastly improved since December, when he was booed off the court by fans at the Grand Slam Cup in Munich.

That followed a disappointing performance at the ATP Tour world championships in November, when he withdrew after a thrashing by Pete Sampras in his first round-robin match.

"It is definitely about the intensity inside each point and the desire to want to win every point," Agassi said. "That is certainly what I have assessed as the core of my game."

"I am not just out there for the hell of it. I am excited to play."

The excitement was clearly missing at the end of 1996, a year in which the only real bright spot for Agassi was winning the Olympic gold medal.



Andre Agassi

He did reach the semi-finals of both the Australian and U.S. Opens, but he was ousted in the second round at Roland Garros and in

the first round at Wimbledon. By the end of the year he was out of shape and out of sorts.

When he made his ignominious exit from the Grand Slam Cup, Agassi had already announced he would skip the Australian Open.

He seemed to thrive on digging himself into a hole and then getting out of it. Now he says he is doing just that.

Agassi reached the semi-finals in San Jose, California, in February, but lost his opener the following week in Memphis, where he also twisted an ankle.

The ankle injury kept him out of America's Davis Cup victory in Brazil, and Agassi said he should probably have rested it a little longer rather than playing last week in Scottsdale, Arizona — where he lost in the first round.

"I had about two days to hit the ball before Scottsdale," he said. "But I wanted the matches and practised my butt off."

That he said, would be his strategy for the foreseeable future.

"What is there to worry about?" He said. "I've just got to be willing to accept where I am and keep getting better. I will start worrying if I don't feel like I am making improvements."

## Chang launches title defence

INDIAN WELLS, California (AFP) — Michael Chang launched his defence of the Champions Cup title with a straight-set, second-round victory over Sjeng Schalken here on Tuesday.

Chang, ranked third in the world and seeded third, defeated the Dutch qualifier 6-4, 6-3, despite a first-set lapse that saw Schalken battle back from a 1-4 deficit to 4-4.

"I had a loose game," said Chang, who dropped his serve in the seventh game. "There were a couple of double faults. It was not a good service game for me."

"But he played some good tennis. He moves well for a big guy."

World number two and second seed Thomas Muster also advanced to the third round with a 6-2, 6-4 win

over Romanian Adrian Panata.

Three other seeds, number five Marcelo Rios of Chile, number seven Wayne Ferreira of South Africa and number 10 Andre Agassi of the United States, were not so fortunate.

Agassi lost a tight two-setter to red-hot Australian Mark Philippoussis.

The 20-year-old Aussie, who won his second ATP tour title in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Sunday, served 23 aces in a 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/5) first-round victory.

Even though Agassi suffered his fourth straight match defeat, he said the training and practice regimen he started in December is paying off.

"I can already see a big improvement," he said. "My desire is definitely there."

Desire wasn't enough to stop Philippoussis, who boasts the biggest serve on the ATP Tour.

Neither player had a break point in the opening set. Agassi broke first in the second to take a 3-1 lead, but Philippoussis immediately broke back.

Agassi had failed to take advantage of a 0-40 lead in the second game of the set.

Philippoussis took a 6-5 lead in the tiebreaker with his 23rd ace, and claimed the match after one hour and 40 minutes with a blistering cross-court forehand winner.

"He played some good tennis," Philippoussis said. "But the big points in the tiebreakers, I think I played well. I came to the net when I had to, hit some winners on the big points. I served well, too, in the tiebreaks."

Philippoussis advanced to a second-round match with compatriot Todd Woodbridge.

In second round matches, Sweden's Magnus Larsson ousted Rios 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7/2). Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten — ranked 76th in the world — beat Ferreira 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 6-3.

The top eight seeds, led by world number one Pete Sampras, all have first-round byes in the \$2.3 million event.

Sampras, riding a 20-match winning streak that started last year, plays his opener on Wednesday afternoon against Czech Bohdan Ulihrach.

The tournament, the first of the prestigious super 9 events on the ATP Tour calendar, is running simultaneously with the WTA Tour's \$1.25 million Evert Cup.

## Leicester hit back to reach Cup final

LONDON (R) — Leicester City made up for the disappointment of a recent F.A. Cup exit to a controversial penalty by reaching the League Cup final on Tuesday.

Leicester beat Wimbledon on the away goals rule with a 1-1 draw in their semifinal second leg after the two teams had fought a 0-0 draw in the first leg.

The result ended Wimbledon's hopes of appearing in both English Cup finals, the London club having already reached the F.A. Cup semifinals.

Leicester, ousted 1-0 at Chelsea in a fifth round F.A. Cup replay after a disputed penalty, came from behind to secure success over Wimbledon.

Wimbledon seized the initiative after 23 minutes. Leicester defender Julian Watts miscued an attempted clearance on the left. Marcus Gayle took possession, sped forward and unleashed a fierce shot which beat American goalkeeper Kasey Keller.

But Leicester equalised eight minutes into the second half from a free-kick on the right. Simon Grayson



Nottingham Forest soccer star Dean Saunders (C) is tackled by Blackburn Rovers player Colin Hendry (L) during their FA Carling Premiership match in Nottingham. The match ended in a 1-1 draw (Reuters photo)

rising at the far post to head home what proved to be the crucial goal.

Leicester clung on to their slender advantage through extra time. Gary Parker twice clearing off the line from successive Wimbledon corners in the last three minutes.

Leicester's opponents in the Wembley final will be decided by Wednesday's semifinal second leg in which Middlesbrough start with a 2-0 lead over Stockport.

Struggling Premier League Nottingham Forest, with new three million pounds (\$4.8 million) Dutch striker Pierre Van

Hooydonk in their side, drew 1-1 at Blackburn in the night's only league clash.

Van Hooydonk, sold by Celtic Monday, could not Mark his debut with a goal but it was another foreigner.

Norwegian midfielder Alf-Inge Haaland, who thrust Forest ahead with an 18th minute strike. Blackburn salvaged a point when Kevin Gallacher equalised after 64 minutes.

## Williams stuns Majoli as Martinez makes a great escape

INDIAN WELLS, California (AFP) — Venus Williams stunned fifth seeded Iva Majoli of Croatia here on Tuesday, saving two match points in a three-set win to reach the quarter-finals of the \$1.25 million Evert Cup.

Second-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez narrowly avoided becoming another upset casualty, surviving five match points against her in a 6-1, 1-6, 7-5 victory over 15th-seeded Chanda Rubin.

Rubin, who burst into tears when Martinez wrapped up the match after two hours and four minutes, said she didn't know how it got away from her.

"Right now I just feel sick about this match," said Rubin, who squandered two match points at 5-2 in the third, and three more when she led 5-4 and 40-0.

Martinez was almost as surprised by her win as Rubin.

"I just kept playing, kept fighting," said Martinez, who said she may have been too impatient early in the third set.

"I had so many chances, so many advantages, and I didn't take them. At the end, I started trying not to miss, hit slices, hit my forehand, try to hit it deep and move

her around."

Martinez advanced to a quarter-final clash with ninth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez, who beat 11th-seeded compatriot Kim Po 6-2, 6-3.

Top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario got a jump on the competition, playing the only quarter-final of the day and reaching the semifinals with a 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over unseeded Sandrine Testud of France.

But 16-year-old Williams was the star of the women's tournament on Tuesday. Playing in the 24th tournament match of her career, she saved two match points in a 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 victory

over Majoli, both in the 10th game of the third set.

The second she saved with a 109 mph ace. Rattled, Majoli dropped her serve to love in the next game with four unforced errors.

The 19-year-old Croatian, ranked ninth in the world and winner of one title already this year, saved two match points in the 12th game before Williams, who calmly waited when Majoli stopped in mid-game to rearrange her right sock, blasted a 114 mph service winner on the third match point.

Williams was pleased with her service game, but the remarkably self-pos-

sessed teenager said she still saw room for improvement.

"I wasn't playing anywhere near what I can play," she said. "I wasn't attacking the short balls. The high balls I wasn't taking those out of the air. On the return of serve, I wasn't attacking those. It was nothing near what I can do."

Olympic champion and world number eight Lindsay Davenport "saw enough to be impressed."

"She has really, really worked her way into this tournament," said Davenport, the fourth seed who will meet Williams in the quarterfinals after a 6-2, 6-1 victory over 14th-seeded Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania.

"I think she is really good," Davenport said. "She earned her way into the tournament, and has really done it on her own. I think that is unbelievable."

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#### PLAY OR DEFEND?

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 6 5  
♥ K 7 4  
♦ A K 7 4  
♣ A 3 3

**WEST**  
♠ Q 3  
♥ J 10 9 8 8  
♦ J 8 8 3  
♣ 2

**EAST**  
♠ K 8 2  
♥ 7 2  
♦ Q 10 9 2  
♣ Q 10 8 7 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ J 10 9 7 4  
♥ Q 5 3  
♦ 5  
♣ K 9 5 4

The bidding:  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
20 2NT Pass Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠  
Study the four hands above, then decide whether, after the lead of the two of clubs, you would rather declare or defend four spades.

After West's weak two-heart opening bid and North's two no trump overall, we approve of South's decision to bid three spades. Should North's heart stopper be the ace rather than the king, it is advantageous to have the opening lead come up to the South hand.

Suppose you elect to declare. Although West's lead is almost surely a singleton, it costs nothing to insert dummy's jack and capture the queen with the king. You cash the ace and king of diamonds, discarding a club, and ruff a diamond. The ace of spades provides the entry for you to ruff dummy's remaining diamond. Now you exit with a trump to West's queen.

Down to nothing but hearts, West must give you two heart tricks whether the defender chooses to lead the ace or a low heart. Now you lead another trump. This time East must win and lead a club away from the ten, giving you two tricks with your combined A 8 tenaces. Right?

Wrong. East can overtake partner's queen of spades with the king and return a spade, stranding you with three more losers — two hearts and a club. Try it.

So you want to defend? Sorry. Discard a heart, not a club, on the second diamond. After continuing along the same line, the sacrifice of the trump trick no longer works because you can cash the ace of clubs and exit with a club, setting up the nine of clubs as your fulfilling trick. The only losers are one trump, one heart and one club. And if East doesn't overtake the spade queen, your club loser vanishes.

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College de la Salle  
JD 5

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Saturday, 22  
8:00 p.m. Adam Norris (Horn)  
and the Orchestra  
of the National Music Conservatory  
Mohammad Othman Sidiq, conductor  
Hotel Intercontinental-Jordan  
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# Crown Prince calls for reform in addressing refugee problem

Prince Hassan, opening UNHCR forum, urges politics centred on human being

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The unprecedented mass displacements caused by recent wars demand the implementation of "anthropological" politics based on humanity and centred on the human being, and raised the need for comprehensive reforms to the current refugee regime, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday.

The body of international laws, institutions and practices forming the refugee regime is no longer adequate to address the varying forms of involuntary mass displacements witnessed in the Central Asia, South West Asia and the Middle East (CASWAME) region following international, regional and civil wars, he said.

Calling for the drafting of a regional charter to address "comprehensively" not only refugee issues, but also the plight of displaced and internally displaced persons as well as returnees in the CASWAME region, the Crown Prince stressed the need for compensating the burden that host countries, like Jordan, have shouldered, because of their geographic location.

"The human dimension of politics, security and economics can no longer be ignored," the Crown Prince stated.

"The aim is not only freedom from military fear, nuclear or otherwise, but for people to live better and secure lives in common prosperity."

The Crown Prince was delivering a key-note address at the opening session of a two-day consultative meeting on involuntary population displacements convened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and attended by high-ranking officials and government representatives from 14 CASWAME countries.

The opening session was co-chaired by UNHCR Sadako Ogata and included welcoming remarks by UNHCR representative in Amman Zohida Hassim-Asghar as well as an overview of UNHCR activities and objectives in the CASWAME region presented by Director of the Bureau Shamsul Bari.

Pointing to the deficiencies of the refugee regime, Crown Prince Hassan complained that "although there is a firm international legal basis that deals with refugees, its terminology is neither adequate nor comprehensive."

"It does not deal with the full range of... different and new forms of forced displacement evolved through the years," he said.

The current refugee regime emanated from and is still largely based on the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol, defining a refugee as a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

As for internally displaced, "their plight has not yet been recognised internationally, and there is little in international law to protect them," the Crown Prince pointed out.

He said that after the end of the cold war, the governments of the CASWAME region had to deal with "more than eight million displaced, not including the Palestinian refugees."

"Though around five million have been repatriated, they are not fully integrated (in their countries of origin)."

"The aftermath of the (1990) Gulf crisis has drawn the attention, particularly of the Middle East region, to those who fall outside the net of the current refugee regime...and outside the specific mandate of any international organisation."

The Crown Prince pointed to the more than one million migrant workers "abruptly forced to leave the Gulf" that Jordan hosted as a transit country during and after the Gulf war.

"With the delay in international response and mobilisation, Jordan's government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) made every possible effort to make their transit stay secure, and to meet their basic human needs," said the Crown Prince.

"Yet full compensation... was never forthcoming," he said, adding that "again, with the deteriorating living conditions in Iraq and the suffering of its people, Jordan continues to grant asylum to our Iraqi brethren...and extends free education equally to their children as to our own."

"Countries such as Jordan, which happen to be located near areas of continuous conflict, should not be obliged to bear alone the brunt of mass displacement, merely by dint of their location."

"Burden-sharing is not a matter of conscience-saving hand-outs...but the proper

concern and responsibility of the international community as a whole," the Crown Prince said, voicing Jordan's legitimate claim, as a traditional host country for the regions' refugees, for "adequate compensation."

Specifying that the plight of Palestinian refugees fall under the umbrella of the UNHCR's sister agency, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and "thus it is beyond the scope" of the current Amman consultations, the Crown Prince reiterated before the international conference Jordan's firm demand for the application of the Palestinians' right of return and/or compensation, as upheld by U.N. Security Council Resolution 194.

"The Jordanians have shared with their Palestinian brethren the available and often scarce resources. The Palestinians, for their part, contributed to building Jordan."

"Yet, I wish to emphasise that their right to have their problem resolved justly and on the basis of United Nations resolutions and international law has not been infringed, and their right of return and/or compensation has not been compromised."

While UNRWA was established in 1949 to deal specifically with "the magnitude and implications" of Palestinian refugee issues in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza, the UNHCR is in charge of humanitarian assistance, repatriation and integration in their original countries of more than 26 million between refugees, displaced people and war victims outside these areas.

"In early 1996, 3.2 million out of the world's 13.2 million refugees under my mandate... lived in the CASWAME countries," Ms. Ogata, in office since 1991, told participants in her address.

"If we were to include other categories of concern to my office, including internally displaced persons and returnees, the figure would stand at approximately 4.5 million," she said, adding that such figure "has further increased in the course of last year."

Ms. Ogata cited a series of historic factors which led to massive population displacement on the CASWAME region, starting with the "colonial legacy" and the mandate regime, under which "state boundaries were arbitrarily drawn or left undefined," to the Soviet intervention on Afghanistan, with "over five million Afghans fleeing their home-

land" and almost entirely hosted by Iran and Pakistan, the Gulf crisis and the recent civil war in Tajikistan.

Calling for a regional charter to address the humanitarian emergencies of mass displacements, the Crown Prince said: "It is timely for the CASWAME region to work out, and through this consultation process, to adopt a charter — a declaration of obligations — that deals comprehensively with the varying types of involuntary mass movements of population."

Stressing the need for "new momentum to address the problem of involuntary displacement in a comprehensive manner...and with an integrated approach...engaging the responsibilities of countries of origin and asylum, and of the international community in a spirit of cooperation and burden understanding," Ms. Ogata urged the delegates to "pave the way toward greater regional cooperation."

"In the mutual interest of states having to cope with refugee problems and of the millions of people looking for safety, I believe that it is crucial for the international community to work toward a new paradigm of international cooperation, combining effective protection and assistance for the victims of conflict and persecution, with determined action to solve existing displacement problems and to prevent new ones from arising," she said.

In yesterday's afternoon session of the consultative meeting, the delegates presented their country reports.

Jordan is represented by Acting Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Administrative Development Kamel Nasser, Secretary General at the Ministry of Interior Hashim Sabbagh, former Secretary General at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, as well as high government officials.

Today's schedule of the conference includes the presentation and discussion of a paper on human rights, migration, and asylum in Islamic tradition, prepared by a group of Islamic scholars commissioned by the UNHCR.

The afternoon closing session of the conference is widely expected to adopt a joint document laying the basis for a regional cooperation mechanism in addressing mass displacement issues and deliberate on future actions and follow-up.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday receives Norwegian State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jan Egeland (photo by Boghos)

## Regent, Norwegian delegation discuss peace process and bilateral relations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday received at the Royal Court Norwegian State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jan Egeland, who is heading a delegation on a visit to Jordan.

The Regent discussed with Mr. Egeland and the delegation Jordanian-Norwegian relations, the Middle East peace process and Norway's role in advancing Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Prince Hassan reviewed with them the problems facing the peace process and reaffirmed Jordan's position vis-a-vis Jerusalem and voiced support for a Swedish initiative in this respect.

The Regent also said that issues related to the environment, energy and water should be addressed as one unit.

Mr. Egeland expressed appreciation of the Jordanian role in the region and its efforts towards peace.

He stressed the need for the Israeli government to call off all actions that undermine the peace process and noted that Israel was under international pressure over its moves.

Mr. Egeland said Norway stood ready to support the peace process wherever possible and to cooperate with Jordan in this regard.

Earlier, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti discussed with Mr. Egeland bilateral relations and regional as well as international issues of common concern, particularly the peace process and the Israeli action which endanger the quest for peace in the region.

## Abu Marzouk's fate will be raised during King's U.S. visit — Kabariti

By Yasser Abu Hileleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Wednesday that the fate of Musa Abu Marzouk, the former head of the Hamas movement's political bureau, will be discussed with American officials during His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the U.S. next week.

"I will discuss this question in all its humanitarian and legal aspects," Mr. Kabariti said. He declined to comment on the prospect of Mr. Abu Marzouk's return to Jordan.

Jordan has expressed reservations on receiving Mr. Abu Marzouk due to the circumstances that followed his expulsion from Jordan in April 1995 following his stay in the Kingdom for one-and-a-half years.

But Jordan has left the door open as to his release based on "humanitarian considerations and not to harm the peace process in case he was extradited (to Israel)," said Mr. Kabariti.

A legal adviser to the Israeli government had advised Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against receiving Mr. Abu Marzouk from the U.S. due to

the lack of evidence to indict him.

Anis Qasem, a member of Mr. Abu Marzouk's defence team, told the Jordan Times that Jordanian officials expressed readiness "to intervene in Abu Marzouk's case to prevent his extradition to Israel on humanitarian grounds."

He cited statements made in this connection by His Majesty King Hussein and some ministers.

Dr. Qasem, who has discussed Mr. Abu Marzouk's case with Jordanian officials said that Jordan "has no objection to receiving Abu Marzouk as a Palestinian citizen seeking a safe haven because he wanted to be freed from New York's jail and escape Israeli threats."

Dr. Qasem said that "Jordanian political considerations are appreciated" adding that "Abu Marzouk's family does not want to burden Jordan with this issue."

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has stressed in a meeting with Mr. Abu Marzouk's wife in Washington that her husband "will not be extradited to Israel, nor do the Israelis accept to hand him over to us in Gaza."

Quoted by an informed Palestinian source, Mr. Arafat said Mr. Abu Marzouk will be

handed over to Jordan, Egypt or Yemen.

Mr. Abu Marzouk holds a Yemeni passport and a Palestinian travel document issued in Cairo and had lived in Yemen after being asked to leave Jordan.

Dr. Qasem said that after the lapse of 60 days following Mr. Abu Marzouk's withdrawal of his request to appeal his case in the U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright can take a decision in his case whether to extradite him to Israel and if not his lawyers can request his immediate release.

Asked whether the U.S. Congress might oppose Mr. Albright's decision, Mr. Qasem said: "The State Department is not affected by such moves because it normally bases its decisions in line with U.S. foreign relations interests."

In case Mr. Abu Marzouk is released, he said, the Hamas leader does not wish to stay in the U.S. although he can because he holds a residency permit.

Mr. Qasem noted that by March 26 Mr. Abu Marzouk would have spent 18 months in detention since he was arrested at Kennedy airport.



Teenage groom finds bride is drag queen

JAKARTA (R) — An Indonesian teenager splashed out on a lavish wedding last weekend only to find when he got home that the bride was a he, not a she. The Jakarta Post reported on Wednesday a Muslim cleric formalised the wedding at Samarinda in East Kalimantan province. But it turned out that the bride of the 18-year-old groom was in fact a 38-year-old transvestite drag queen who ran a local beauty parlor, the Post said. "If this sort of marriage is allowed, it would mean we had set the clock back to the age of pagan ignorance," the newspaper quoted the chief of the local Muslim council as saying.

## Galleon with treasure found off Ecuador

QUITO (R) — An international group said they have located a Spanish galleon that sunk in 1654 off the Ecuadorian Pacific Coast with a multimillion-dollar cargo of gold and silver. "The galleon was discovered on March 8," Roni Almeida, an Ecuadorian who heads the expedition, told Reuters. "It was detected by our electronic equipment off the coast town of Punta Canero," 570 kilometres south of Quito. Almeida declined to give more details on the location of the galleon "because first we must present a report to the Ecuadorian government in the next few days." The team headed by Almeida includes American, Norwegian, Uruguayan and Spanish nationals. It was not immediately clear how the booty, which Almeida claims could be worth billions of dollars, would be divided once it is retrieved.

## Polish police seek lost boxing kangaroos

WARSAW (R) — Police in the central Poland town of Nowy Dwor told people to avoid contact with two kangaroos missing from a circus, saying both were skilled boxers and could turn violent. The animals can be dangerous because they are not friendly to people and have been taught to box. PAP news agency quoted a police duty officer as saying, "Anyone meeting them should not try to come close." The Russian-trained male kangaroos named Gin and Tonic either fled or were stolen from a travelling circus when it stopped in Nowy Dwor. They belong to the Russian state circus and were brought by their trainers to Poland.

## No water, no electricity, no phone — \$400 weekly

PROVINCETOWN, Massachusetts (R) — Looking for a place to get away from it all? Always wanted a shack on the beach? The Provincetown Community Compact, a nonprofit group in this Cape Cod community, is offering a 600-square-foot wooden shack — with-out running water, electricity, telephone or convenient location — for up to \$400 a week. "The primitive nature of the structure and its physical isolation allow for uninterrupted solitude and refuge," said Jay Critchley, an artist who founded the compact to support the arts and environment, said. It is the only one of 17 such shacks in a remote area of the national seashore available to the public and was once home to playwright Eugene O'Neill, he said. The group has a five-year lease on the shack from the U.S. National Park Service. "It's not totally primitive. There's a wood stove so you can use it year round and there's a composting toilet."

## Netanyahu hails Moscow visit

MOSCOW (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, finishing his first visit to Russia on Wednesday, hailed a new era of better ties between the countries that only recently ended decades of hostility. "We have forged the makings of a new relationship between Israel and Russia," Mr. Netanyahu told a news conference.

Moscow, a traditional ally of many of Arabs, reestablished long-severed diplomatic relations with Israel only in 1991.

"The political relationship that we have... is one of friendship and understanding as opposed to the enmity and adversity that we had before," Mr. Netanyahu said.

President Boris Yeltsin, who met Mr. Netanyahu on Tuesday, said he anticipated greatly expanded trade links with Israel.

"Our countries and their leaders have finished a period of biased attitudes and have energetically moved toward each other," Mr. Yeltsin said on Tuesday.

"This regards political, economic and trade relations," Russia, a co-sponsor of the Arab-Israeli peace talks that led to an historic Israeli-Palestinian agreement, is also keen to revive its influence in the region, which has been much reduced by Moscow's economic woes.

Beneath the warm declarations, some irritants remained, notably over Russia's ties with Iran.

Russia has a signed an \$800 million deal to complete an Iranian nuclear reactor in the southern port town of Bushehr, despite western fears that Tehran might use the technology to develop nuclear arms.

In addition, last month the Los Angeles Times said U.S. intelligence reports indicated Moscow had given Iran technology for the Russian SS-4 missile, which has a range almost three times greater than that of any missile now in Tehran's arsenal.

"Yes, of course, I did raise the question of ballistic missile and nuclear technology flowing to Iran," Mr.

Netanyahu said.

"I was assured by President Yeltsin that the nuclear cooperation is on a very rudimentary level and that the ballistic missile development, he said, was not taking place and will not take place," he said.

"Since this is an ongoing concern of ours, we agreed to have further conversations on this point to clarify our concerns and to insure indeed that this threat does not materialize."

Such concerns may play a role in Israel's declared interest in buying natural gas from Russia.

The Israeli press has reported that Mr. Netanyahu would buy about \$3 billion in gas if he could get Russia to agree not to sell weapons to Iran and Syria.

"I discussed the general idea of Israel's purchasing gas from Russia," Mr. Netanyahu said, adding that he did not seek a "quid pro quo" in the deal.

"I said 'we're waiting, frankly, for an offer,'" he said.

## Palestinian teachers to strike

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinian teachers said Wednesday they would escalate an unprecedented strike against the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) which they have waged over the past two weeks in a bid to win increased pay.

The strike committee announced that the 13,000 teachers participating in the protest would completely boycott classes on Saturday, which is a school day, despite threats by the education minister to take disciplinary action.

Teachers launched their strike two weeks ago by skipping one class per day, then increasing to three classes a day, and by taking to the streets in protest marches.

The strike, joined by 13,000 of the total 19,000 teachers employed by the education ministry, is the first of its kind against the PNA since it came into existence in 1994.

## Kahalani rescinds move to close Palestinian offices

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel's Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani on Wednesday cancelled an order closing down four Palestinian offices in Arab East Jerusalem. Israeli Radio reported.

Mr. Kahalani decided to allow the offices to remain open at meeting on Wednesday evening after being convinced by lawyers for the institutions that the offices were not illegal branches of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The radio said that lawyer Jawad Boulos, acting for the four institutions, also made a pledge that the buildings would not be used as PNA offices in the future.

The targeted offices were a welfare organisation helping Palestinians hurt by Israeli security forces, an Islamic committee against Israeli settlements, a small business development office and a non-governmental organisation connected to the

Fatch group.

Israel claims that the 1995 Oslo interim agreement on Palestinian autonomy limits PNA activities to self-rule areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and bars the self-rule government from operating in Arab East Jerusalem.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the four offices closed last week and police set an initial deadline of Sunday, but this was extended so Mr. Boulos could lodge his appeals.

The right-wing government of Mr. Netanyahu has made strengthening the Jewish hold on Arab East Jerusalem a top policy priority both by closing Palestinian institutions and building new Jewish enclaves there, actions which had drawn strong Arab and international protests.

Israel's move against the offices stoked anger among Palestinians who were already enraged by a decision to build a new

Jewish enclave in Arab East Jerusalem.

On another front, Israel's supreme court rejected the appeals Wednesday of two extremist Jewish groups trying to stop Muslims from using a new prayer hall in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound.

At issue in the latest controversy is an ancient underground vault, known as Solomon's Stables or Marwani Mosque. Muslims began using the renovated hall in December.

Two groups — the Temple Mount faithful and Hai Vekayam — have repeatedly tried to block the use of the vault for Muslim prayers. Both group want to establish Israeli control over the area.

A three-judge panel ruled Wednesday that the use did not violate Israeli law and that the groups had failed to prove "harsh insult to the feelings of Jews" from the carrying out of Muslim religious rites at the site.